WORKS IN PROGRESS

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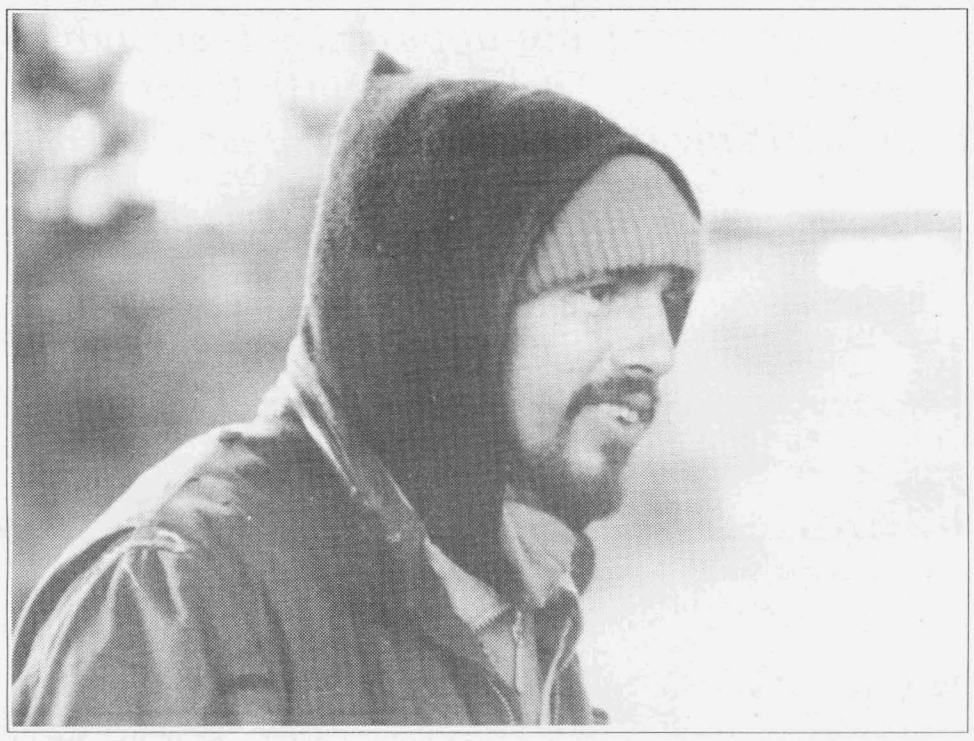
"Social progress does not have to be bought at the price of individual freedom." John Foster Dulles

Two Men's Shelter Scenarios



Rick Hoonan

Greg Hohnholt

During the Homeless Services Community Task Force (HSCTF) meetings held throughout February, the question of what type of rules the new men's shelter should be operated under came up quite frequently. [For a summary of the Task Force meetings, see related story, *Homeless News and Views* of this issue]. It is a matter of record that many homeless men either cannot or will not stay at the Salvation Army, as evidenced by the fact that the First Baptist shelter has consistently served 25-50% more men on a night-by-night basis for over a year (the Salvation Army shelter has 41 beds, and full use has been uncommon). With a March 1st closing date fast approaching, however, expanding the present services at the S.A. seemed like the only genuinally viable solution. A lot of the Task Force's time was spent, therefore, discussing how the Salvation Army shelter could be made more "user-friendly" .

Before the start of the Week 4 meeting (Jan. 28), copies of the Salvation Army's rules were handed out as a resource for discussion. During the same meeting, Pastor Sam Hochstatter read the "Operating Principles" of the First Baptist Shelter. Both of these "scenarios," as I have referred to them, are printed below for the purpose of providing the public with a means of getting a "feel" for how these two shelters have been run.

This "feel" should not be the basis of making a critical judgement about which 'scenario' is better or worse than the other for several reasons. For example, several homeless men themselves have stated that it is not only the rules and prohibitions that the Salvation Army enforces that make it problematic as a shelter option, but the attitude of the staff who work there. In addition, it should also be mentioned that the First Baptist's priniciples are exactly that: principles. Whether all of these principles are implemented on a consistent basis is, to me, at least, a matter of some contention. I base my opinion on the simple fact that, having worked at the First Baptist Shelter for over a year, I had never heard of these "operating principles" until Pastor Sam read them at the January 28th meeting. While I have tried to follow a similar set of "principles" in my own mind, I know that most staff members, myself included, have bent these principles or disregarded them occasionally (especially Nos. 3 , 7, and 10) for reasons too numerous and complex to explain here.

Perhaps, then, the problem is not the rules or principles themselves, or even uncaring or careless staff people, but the fact that the homeless community has had little or no input into the drafting of either of these documents. In this sense, they are both flawed, since they both presume that the homeless are a subpopulation that cannot be trusted to govern themselves on the basis of one, common, objective tr^ait: not having a home.

Salvation Army Men's Shelter Rules

1) Picture I.D. required. If no I.D., then length of stay will be 3 days unless longer stay approved by Program Director. Those without I.D. may be asked to get a referral from the police department.
2) No minors.
3) No one under the influence of a drug or alcohol admitted. If the clerk feels there is a behavior problem, he will ask for a breathalyzer test. Anyone blowing a .08 or more will not be admitted. The first time will result in one (1) night's denial. The second time will be a seven (7) day denial. The third time will be a thirty (30) day denial.
4) The following will result in denial from the shelter:
- bringing in drugs or alcohol.
- bringing in weapons.
- violence or threat of violence.
-disorderly conduct.
5) No food is allowed out of the dining room.
6) Smoking is not allowed in the building. If a man is smoking in the building, he will be asked to leave. He must see a case worker during office hours to be able to stay again.
7) Bring in only necessary items. We are not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items. Upon leaving our lodge, guests must take their belongings. Any items left longer than 3 calendar days are considered abandoned and will be removed. There will be no compensation for items removed.
8) Shower daily. No showers after 9:45 PM. Modest clothing is required at all times.
9) Men are admitted at 7:30 PM and leave at 6:50 AM. All men must check in by 9 PM. Lights out at 10 PM. Men are not allowed out after check-in. If a man goes out he is out for the night.
10) Men can come into the office and get a referral for a bed. If he is a no-show, he loses the referral but is able to come in if beds are available.
11) All men are required to do daily house duties. It is each man's responsibility to check the bulletin board daily for assignments.
12) Each man has 14 days to establish a means of financial support: employment, Social Security, state assistance, etc. All men are required to be in the savings program.

First Baptist Shelter Operating Principles

1) We will personally welcome you at the door, not just leave you to find your own way in and around.
2) We will not insult you by demanding I.D.
3) We will not discriminate against you for drinking, knowing that our own habits need a lot of improvement.
4) We will not be judge and jury of your need by putting arbitrary time limits on your length of stay.
5) We will not demand "case management," prying into your private business to moralize and meddle. If you ask for help, we will listen, but only if you ask.
6) We will be your advocate, making your needs known to the community and insisting they be met.
7) We will give you as much *choice* as possible, encouraging what *you* would like to do, such as choose where in the building you want to put your mattress, and whether you would like to read, etc.
8) We will not threaten your freedom or economic security by becoming entangled in your relationships with legal and social service agencies. This means that we will not be an official post office or phone contact for either the agency or you.
9) We will be your friend throughout the night, protect you from predators who come to hurt and take advantage of you, and [we will] listen to your story.
10. We will be alert to you in the morning and make sure you are warmly greeted as you leave, not just left to wander out unnoticed.

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Growth Management Needed to Protect Those Who Are Here

Mary Dreyer

This is an excerpt of a letter sent to the County Commissioners, to Jennifer Belcher and the County Roads Department; none of whom have responded to the letter at press time. The generalities of the letter have been reprinted here, while the specifics of it have been omitted, which concerns the widening of Brown Road by cutting down an enormous amount of trees. If you are interested in the issue please let the above officials know.

There is far too much random destruction and slaughtering of trees happening throughout Thurston County and in all of our Washington forest lands. As a native Olympian, I feel this destruction, which is called by some "progress," has reached an all-time high, and many others besides myself feel it should be stopped. I am writing to address a few issues.

It angers me to see people moving here from other parts of the country, not caring that they are contributing to the destruction caused by massive building and population growth. There needs to be a limit on how much growth can be done: low-impact zoning, and more affordable housing for those people who have lived here a long time, but no longer can afford to because of wealthy people pushing out those less fortunate. The attitude of these people seems to be "develop, develop, develop"—thinking only of making money. Well, what about those of us that don't think money is everything, and that our trees and wildlife are more important. We are seen by some as just being "Environmental Radicals" because we have respect for our Earth.

People leave other parts of the country to come here thinking it is so wonderful... they may have moved, but apparently their habits haven't changed. They bring with them the same attitude of "progress": "We need more Fred Meyer's and Jack-in-the-Box's."

I don't have much patience for those who only want to take from our Earth, causing enormous problems as a result of their greed. There is a man that moved here from Texas, who is in the process of building above where I live. He doesn't like the trees so he's having all of them cut from his land. This is ludicrous. People, especially those that come from other parts of the country, shouldn't be allowed to do this. They should be required to be aware of the over-all impact they will have on the surrounding environment, as well as on the land they buy, before they are allowed to cut down trees.

Many acres of forest have been cut around us in Capital State Forest. Next to the land I live on, Port Blakely, has slaughtered one hundred acres. The marshland here has been severely damaged, as well as the pond where beavers used to live. They don't anymore. What do we need to do to put a halt on all this destruction in the Pacific Northwest?

People leave other parts of the country to come here thinking it is so wonderful, that any place is better than where they've come from, since what they may have experienced is decimation because of overbuilding and pollution. Well, they may have moved, but apparently their habits haven't changed. They bring with them the same attitude of "progress": "We need more Fred Meyer's and Jack-in-the-Box's." Then it becomes too fast-paced, with more violence, drugs, gangs, and rape, as well as the rape of the land. I feel we need to better educate ourselves and others away from this self-destructive way of thinking.

I have been living here since my childhood because I've never wanted to live around that fast-paced, destructive lifestyle. I feel it's here now, and it looks like it's here to stay. I'm thirty-three years old and I feel like I'm being pushed out of this area. Everything is costing too much, and there's more violence and drugs—all the things I've not wanted to live around. I want a life of peace and sanity, not mini-malls and apartment complexes.

Women Pool Resources for First Annual Celebration

South Sound Women will pool resources, ideas and talent during a day-long resource fair called *Celebrating Women*, a first time event planned by a full range of community groups.

March 5, 9:30am to 3pm
Olympia Center
222 North Columbia
The event is free.
Childcare available (pre-registration is required)

Presenters will host discussions about the following topics:

"Women's Health," Room #202

"Family and Parenting," Room #200

"Young Women—School, Relationships and the Future," Room #203

"Community, Work and Career," Room #205

"Self Empowerment: Financial, Technical, Legal Issues and Spirituality" Room #208

The presenters will include representatives from community groups and businesses such as the Dispute Resolution Center, St. Peter Hospital, area high schools, Safeplace, and Olympia Parks and Cultural Services.

Organizations will display information about these same topics at fourteen tables in another part of the center.

"We're hoping to strengthen the network of women in our community and to help women access resources available to them," says coordinator Kathryn Everett. "We also want to have fun and get to know each other. Women in our community have so much in common even though we might walk on different paths through life."

For more information call Kathryn (general) at 943-2661, Linda (displays) at 352-1712, or Linda (interactive discussions) at 357-7272.

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Works In Progress

Mission Statement: This organization is dedicated to promoting mutual understanding among diverse cultural groups and providing a voice for peoples disenfranchised by the dominant culture. We encourage the presentation of material by those most affected by exclusionary and unfair practices. Our aim is to explore the meanings of injustice and democratic participation in our society and in relation to the emerging global transition.

Anti-Discrimination Clause: We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

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Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Keep those letters and cards coming. Correspondence and articles are always welcome. If possible submit articles on disk (Wordperfect). WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions; so for editing purposes please enclose your phone number. Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

Capital City Struggles With Basic Issue: A Place for Kids to Go

Hal Spencer
Associated Press Writer

OLYMPIA (AP) Lawmakers up on the hill are floating scores of fancy cures for youth violence. But downtown, the issue becomes more basic: Where can the capital city's street kids go to hang out?

In January, the Olympia city Council endorsed a decision by managers of the city's Olympia Center to close the "Youth Lobby", a 1,000-square-foot room on the center's second floor that was popular with teens. The room's couches and pool and pingpong tables attracted downtown kids. Center employees say it also attracted trouble. They contend it was a recruiting place for out-of-town gangs. And they said other patrons of the center were afraid of the young people.

Jane Boubel, center manager, said there were two assaults in 1992 and 12 in 1993 at the center. "There is concern about safety. And there is something else. We have experienced a downturn" in use by other age groups, she said. "When we followed up to find out why, they were sharing with us that fear was an overriding concern." Boubel said young people still can come to the center for specific activities, such as a play.

But the closure of the youth lobby means young people will be endangered, and a danger to others as well, say those who want it reopened. "With no place to go, we'll mob the malls", said Chris Edwards, a young man sitting with friends at a downtown bus shelter Monday.

"The city just shoved kids out on the streets and made gangs more vital: made violence more likely", said Sylvia Smith, an instructional assistant at River Ridge High School in Lacey. Smith works with young people at the center on her own time.

The drama is being played out as various legislative committees rush to pass measures to try to stem youth violence. In many ways, the dispute illustrates what some lawmakers have said: In the end, control and prevention of youth violence is in the hands of communities. Olympia City Councilwoman Holly Gadbaw agreed. She said she wished finding solutions was as simple as passing a law.

Phillip Guynn, 16, said: "It's too bad they shut us off. That's where you go to keep away from gangs and trouble. That's safe territory in there. "They closed Marios (a local pool hall), and now they close this. Where are kids supposed to go?" he asked. "We want to stop the violence", said Kym Cocchiarella, 26, "but not by shutting people out."

"The solutions are not easy. I don't think anybody knows what really works. There are some good models, but not everyone works in every situation", she said. "The kids want a place to go not have rules. The city can't have place for them without some kind of structure. It's too bad, but that is the situation", Gadbaw said.

"I think we've got to move ahead with these kids now. Let's do something and see if it works. It's good to talk, but we have to do something now. "But we need massive amounts of volunteers. If people really care about providing something for kids, people are going to have to step up and give of their time and their money. The city can do something, but it can't do it all."

Gadbaw said she believes the center staff's reports about the increasing danger from aggressive young people, most of whom are from out of the area. But others believe the dangers were overstated.

"These young people who come in here, they're well-mannered. They don't cause no trouble to me, none whatsoever", said Colon Tripp, 60, as she sat with friends at the Olympia Center. "They're a pleasure to have around."

Other senior citizens within earshot spoke up. "I'm basically not a bit frightened of the kids. You get a rude one now and then, but that's just the way it is", said Rose Siebken to nods of agreement from her friends. She said some of the seniors' object to the young people, but not many. "And they just like to complain."

Outside, Phillip Guynn, 16, said: "It's too bad they shut us off. That's where you go to keep away from gangs and trouble. That's safe territory in there. "They closed Marios (a local pool hall), and now they close this. Where are kids supposed to go?" he asked.

"We want to stop the violence", said Kym Cocchiarella, 26, "but not by shutting people out."

Becky Davies
11 years old
6th grade
Jefferson Middle School

In the state of Washington, people are trying to pass a new law that makes it illegal for kids under the age of 18 to be out past midnight. Although many adults support this new law, most kids don't. Since this new law will mostly affect kids, I thought we should say what we think.

"This isn't going to stop gang violence," says an eighth grader at Jefferson Middle school. "It will just make kids more sneaky or they'll just go to a different part of Washington at night."

Another student at Jefferson states, "Not all kids are involved in gangs. We are getting punished for things other people are doing."

A lot of kids here at Jefferson say they wouldn't make as much trouble if they had something fun to do at night. Kids aren't on the streets at night because they want to be there. It's because they don't have anywhere better to be. If more schools got involved and had activities like open gym, more dances and other activities, we would have something constructive to do.

"Taking a teenager home and fining their parents isn't going to stop them from going out at night," students say.

Another student says that she went to a movie with her sister. The movie ended at 11:45 pm. They were hungry, so they went to a restaurant and then waited by the theater for their mom. They ended up being dropped off at their house by a police officer, who said they were out too late. These teenagers weren't making any trouble, but they got in trouble anyway.

In the opinion of most kids, this law will not solve anything. If we're the ones that will be restricted by this law, shouldn't we know if it will work? We want to end gang violence as much as you do, but this law isn't the answer.

Although I haven't fully made up my mind about this law, it was interesting to hear the opinions of other kids. Please consider how we feel before you vote on this law.

Tampa Bay's Community Solution to Teen Violence

Mike Rosenthal

A nationally-proven program that works with already-violent and at-risk teens and turns their lives around is being organized in the Tampa Bay area. Called Community Partners with Youth (CPY), the program enables young people with addictive behaviors to examine their lives and make new choices.

Organizers identify four basic cornerstones on which the program functions: Responsibility, Commitment, Support and Having a Vision. In an intensive 5-day residential program led by trained adult volunteers, the teens learn that their interpretations about how the world operates are not necessarily so. [Ed. Note: CPY is an alternative to the "bootcamp" style programs that the state criminal justice system is setting up, which are based on authoritarian control by the state.]

The entire Community Partner program, typically lasting one year, consists of three parts. First is a period of community outreach, fundraising and organization-building. Part two involves developing and producing programs for the various volunteer groups. Thirdly is the Follow-up Program, distinguished by continuing support from specially trained Committed Partners—adult volunteers from the teens' own neighborhood who have participated in the courses with the teens.

Having been produced for the last 10 years in cities as diverse as Los Angeles, Washington, Denver, Chicago, Bridgeport and Phoenix, this type of program (under different names) has proven itself effective in the long term in turning around troubled and violent teens.

For example,in Phoenix, where the program originated 1990, continuous records were kept of all participants. The following results were realized at the end of three years:

- Family violence decreased by 43%
- Criminal arrests decreased by 29%
- School dropouts, expulsions and suspensions decreased by 93%
- Employment rose by 40%
- There was no incidence of successful suicide attempts; 20% decrease in suicide ideation
- Statistically significant increase in self-esteem and resistance to peer pressure

The Community Partners with Youth in the Tampa Bay area is led by Theresa Ellis. To get more information, call Ms. Ellis at (813) 347-3868 or Mike Rosenthal at (813) 341-1014.

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Immune System

March: 2nd-9pm, 3rd-3pm, 15th-8am, 17th-6pm

A panel discussion with Dr. Jennifer Booker, Dr. Rick Calcara, and hosted by Dan O'Flaherty of Red Apple Natural Foods.

Weight Loss

March: 8th-8am and 10th-6pm

A panel discussion with Dr. Jennifer Booker, Weight Trainer Donald Baker, and hosted by Dan O'Flaherty of Red Apple Natural Foods.

Along the Color Line

Reviving the Youth Protest Movement

Dr. Manning Marable

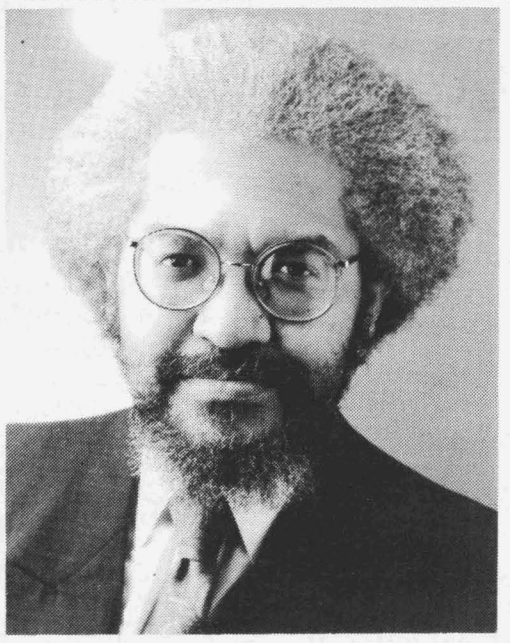
When I was eighteen years old, I arrived at Earlham College, a small, Quaker private school in Richmond, Indiana, filled with fascination and expectations. It was the fall of 1968, in the middle of a controversial presidential campaign, a three-way contest between Republican Richard M. Nixon, Democrat Hubert Humphrey and racial segregationalist George Wallace. The disturbing events of that year—the "Tet Offensive" by the North Vietnamese which destroyed the myth of American military supremacy in Southeast Asia, the tragic assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy, the police riot against demonstrators at the demonstrators at the Democratic Party's national convention in Chicago that summer, and the growing worldwide tide of political and moral opposition to the U.S. war in Vietnam—all formed the turbulent cultural and social background to our times.

My generation of students had experienced a political lifetime in the short span of several years. We had been inspired by the patriotism and idealism of John F. Kennedy, who had challenged us with the declaration: "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." We stood in the hot summer sun before the Lincoln Memorial, and were moved to tears as we listened to Martin's magnificent "I Have A Dream" speech. We marched in solidarity with our sisters and brothers who stood against racial injustice and segregation in Birmingham, Montgomery and Jackson, and we cheered as the authoritarian system of Jim Crow collapsed.

...young people must not hesitate to "be realistic" by demanding "the impossible," because only then will "the impossible" become reality.

The charismatic figure of Malcolm X made us aware of the intricate network of hypocrisy and oppression which perpetuated black inequality and white power. And we witnessed the rich parade of alternative voices and protest visions—Fannie Lou Hamer, Huey P. Newton, Cesar Chavez, Fred Hampton, Frantz Fanon, Amiri Baraka, Sonia Sanchez, and the "Last Poets"—we moved rapidly into new and unanticipated directions. America would never be the same again.

My college experience at Earlham was just another phase of that process of cultural change and self-discovery. The pace of change was occurring so rapidly by this time, that the rules, regulations and values generated by the early sixties now seemed, at the end of the decade, hopelessly anachronistic and backward to us. For example, upperclass students forced us to accept "freshman beanies," small, round, colorful little caps which symbolized one's school spirit. The African-American students were probably the first to raise objections, on practical grounds. Freshmen beanies were designed for white boys with crew cuts, not sisters and brothers with bushy Afros. So when we discarded our beanies as "obnoxious symbols of the white man's power structure," our long-haired, beaded and bearded hippie friends followed suit.



We challenged a series of ridiculous rules which were designed to segregate women from men on the campus. Freshmen women had a curfew of 10:30pm, which meant that they had to run frantically out of the library before it closed, while the men students still studied, in order to reach their dormitories before the doors were locked that night. If a woman was present in a male student's dormitory room, the door had to be open at least nine inches. The most absurd and most violated restriction was the "three feet rule:" at least three feet (presumably out of four) had to remain on the floor at all times. The basic idea was that sexual relations were impossible when three feet were firmly planted on the ground. Once again, our deans underestimated our ingenuity—and dexterity. Our approach was to challenge authority at every opportunity. And our motto was clear: "Be realistic, demand the impossible."

Each successive generation reevaluated old rules, clarifies its objectives and reaches toward new visions and human possibilities. The late sixties represented such a time in the American experience, a moment of hope and idealistic struggle, of false promised and bold action. Again and again, young people led the way: the idealistic college students who joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, to take part in the "sit-in" demonstrations across the South; the black innercity youths who created the militant Black Panther Party; the white middle class young people who defied their parents by joining the antiwar movement. We must revive that sense of urgency and political imagination for our own time, if we intend to dismantle the attitudes and institutions which continue to divide humanity by race, gender, class and sexual orientation. Young people must be given the opportunity to establish their own organizations for protest and community-activism, guided by their ideas, values and goals.

We must inspire and motivate a new generation of youth leadership and activism for our own time. As in the sixties, young people must not hesitate to "be realistic" by demanding "the impossible," because only then will "the impossible" become reality.

Dr. Marable is Professor of History and Political Science, and Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies, Columbia University. Along the Color Line appears in over 250 publications and is broadcast by 75 radio stations internationally.

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Thursday, February 17, 1994

Statement of Sandy Nelson Before Senate Law and Justice Committee on House Bill 1443

I could be fired for speaking here today, for exercising my basic political rights as a citizen of Washington, because I live in a city and state that offer no protections from employment or housing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation—or political ideology for that matter.

I am here today as a victim of discrimination. My employer, *The News Tribune* of Tacoma punished me three years ago for my efforts on behalf of a measure similar to the bill you're considering today. At the time, I was trying to reinstate a Tacoma law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation; that law had been repealed in 1989 through the efforts of the same people sponsoring one of two anti-gay statewide initiatives this year.

I was removed from my job as an education reporter and exiled permanently to an evening production job. I was told I would be considered for a reporting job only when I agreed to give up *all* off-duty political activism. I continue to be harassed and interrogated by TNT management because of my off-the-job efforts on behalf of House Bill 1443.

Because I live in a city and state with anti-discrimination laws that exclude sexual orientation and political ideology protection, I couldn't turn to the city or state human rights agencies to protest the *specific* discrimination I suffered as a lesbian and a socialist. Because I live where I live, the ACLU of Washington can seek redress for only a *fraction* of my injury—the violation of my state constitutional rights—in its suit against *The News Tribune.*

Because I live in a city and state with anti-discrimination laws that exclude sexual orientation and political ideology protection, I couldn't turn to the city or state human rights agencies to protest the* specific *discrimination I suffered as a lesbian and a socialist.

Unless you do something, it will continue to by okay for employers to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in Tacoma and in most parts of Washington. And such discrimination *does* occur—you have evidence of it in this room, both from the victims of discrimination and the perpetrators.

You have an opportunity this session to do something to change that—to match the courage we have to summon every day of our lives in a society where gay and lesbian people are persecuted, bashed and reviled. You can make sure this bill gets out of this committee and passes the Senate. I urge you to make the bill duplicate Seattle's model Fair Housing and Employment ordinance, which has worked for decades to protect Seattle residents from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation *and* political ideology.

I appreciate that many of you are fearful that if you take a stand for gay rights, you will become a target of the right wing at election time. As gays and lesbians, we are a target of the right wing every day of our lives. And this year, the attack has escalated until now we face two initiatives designed to ensure we never secure basic civil rights the majority takes for granted.

If you don't pass this bill, the right wing will be emboldened in their campaign to take away our jobs, homes and families. And if they manage to pass their noxious initiatives in November, what happened to me and other victims of discrimination will happen to hundreds and thousands of others. If they succeed in this effort, the right wing will move on to another state or another issue, such as reversing abortion rights, dismantling affirmative action or busting unions.

The least you can do as our elected officials is to risk as much as we have in showing up here today. Pass this bill. Thank you.

Civil Rights, Human Rights

Jerome Johnson

I stood on the steps of the Legislative Building the other day, demonstrating for human rights, for civil rights. Anna Schlect had invited me there to support civil rights for gays/lesbians/bisexuals/transgenders, and I was, but I was there for selfish reasons too. I was there for my friends and loved ones and total strangers I've never met and will never know, as well as for myself. I was there because everyone in Washington is at grave risk if HB1443 fails and if I-608 and/or I-610 pass and become law.

And as I stood there the bitter taste of fear was in my mouth, because I know how ignorance feeds hate and how hate feeds violence. I prayed for power to defeat them; and after prayer, I went to work. As I went about the coalition work of helping to secure civil rights for all the citizens of Washington, I ran into two myths:

1. "Special Rights" — Enforcing the civil rights of everyone is not a "special right," and I'm sick of that hateful phrase. As my friend Meredith Savage has so aptly put it: security from discrimination in housing, employment, family, education, and the public safety are *not* special rights, they are *civil* rights. Legislation that prevents, deters, and punishes discrimination based on affectional status strengthens already existing statutes, protecting everyone in Washington State. As far as I'm concerned, the only so-called "special right" is the "right" to discriminate.

2. "The struggles of blacks and others is 'different'; racial minorities can't help who them are" — I've been black all my life, and this is one of the most ridiculous things I've ever heard. First, there are some black people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender. Second, this fight is about civil rights, which means NO discrimination. Period.

If the predators in our society—in business suits or tattered leather—are not deterred they will use "perception" as criteria for judgement, attacking anyone.

If the predators in our society—in business suits or tattered leather—are not deterred they will use "perception" as criteria for judgement, firebombed in Salem, Oregon, we should remember firebombs in Birmingham, Alabama. And when we walk the streets of Olympia and see Nazi and Confederate flags in the breeze, skinheads fighting in parking lots, KILL NIGGERS NOW and HEIL SKINS and FAGS DIE scrawled on buildings, we need to remember that until *all* of us have our civil rights, written into law, *none* of us have them.

Black people, people of color, et. al. must renounce homophobia and biphobia. These prejudices must stop. Who the hell are we to oppress anyone? When Sharon Bottoms' child is ripped away from her, we need to remember the slave sales which legally destroyed families. When peoples' homes are attacking anyone.

Jerome is Coordinator of the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition.

Stay Proud–Stay Healthy

Seattle Counseling Service for Sexual Minorities will present an encore program to last summer's *Surviving the Anti-Gay Movement*

Friday, March 25 6:30pm
Kane Hall Room 120 UW
$5 donation is suggested

"Stay Proud—Stay Healthy" may well be the most important step any of us can take in maintaining our mental, emotional and spiritual health through today's turbulent environment of anti-human rights campaigns. This forum is a must attend for every community organizer, every volunteer, and every heterosexual or sexual minority person involved in the fight against ignorance and hate.

"Stay Proud—Stay Healthy" will bring together professionals from Colorado, Oregon, and Washington to share their experiences on the personal issues each of us needs to be prepared to deal with.

Presentations will include:

- **Betty Lynn Mahaffey–Recently interviewed by Bill Moyers for his special *The New Holy Wars*, Ms. Mahaffey was Co-Director of Equal Protection Ordinance of Colorado, the campaign against Amendment 2 in Colorado Springs, and was one of the founders of Ground Zero. Ms. Mahaffey is an experienced human rights activist and speaker, who will address the personal effects of ongoing anti-rights movements and the added concerns of community organizers.**
- **Dr. Carol Carver–Dr. Carver makes her second appearance with SCSSM's public forums. As an "out" psychologist in private practice in Oregon, she worked with many of the "survivors" of Oregon's Measure 9 campaign. Dr. Carver will present practical approaches to taking care of ourselves and how to stay involved in a healthy way.**
- **Rev. Cheri Starchman—Rev. Starchman's involvement with MCC Church and People of Faith For Fairness provides excellent experience to address the issues facing the spiritually/religiously oriented members of our community.**

The anti-rights campaigns have already begun. Make sure you take good care of yourself by attending "Stay Proud—Stay Healthy".

For more information, contact Seattle Counseling Service for Sexual Minorities at (206)282-9314.

The Value of *Star Trek*

Jerome Johnson

It might seem odd to be writing about *Star Trek* during Black History Month, but bear with me; after I set up the context, I'm going to share a delightful story.

I've had a great time during Black History Month. I've eaten lots of good soul food, rapped with sisters and brothers, read through the books, spoken at neighboring colleges. Even though for many of us *every* month is Black History Month, February is still special because it's the one month the mainstream culture acknowledges that there's more to being black besides Martin Luther King, Jesse Jackson, crime, drugs, and jail.

And yet, I've been thinking a lot about *Star Trek* lately, mostly because there's going to be a program out at Evergreen this year based on it. I think that's not only excellent but long overdue.

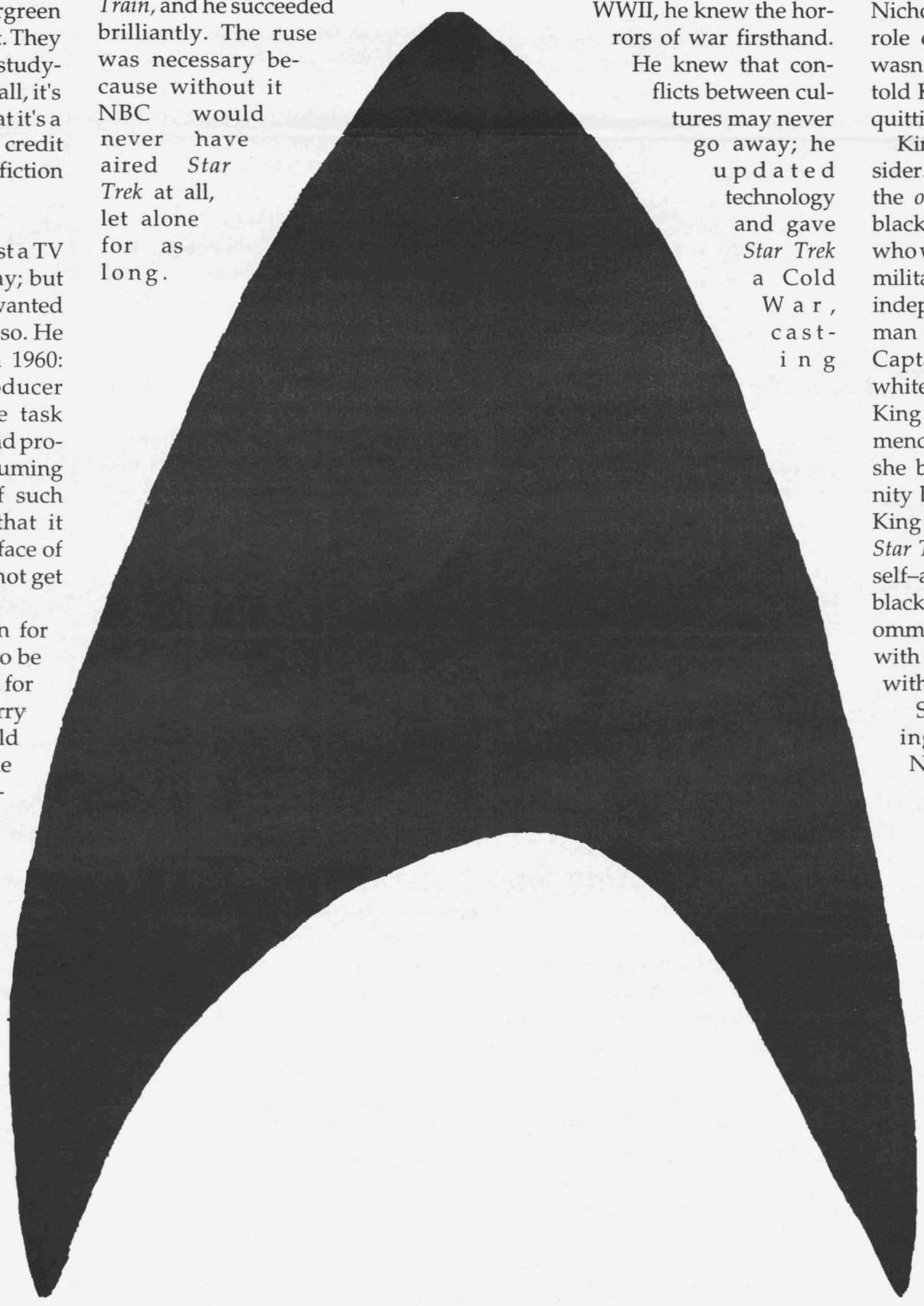
Now, as I was surprised to find out, there are some folks around town who don't like it. They say that it's just another nutty Evergreen "class", not deserving of credit. They say that *Star Trek* isn't worth studying for academic credit; after all, it's "just a TV show." They say that it's a waste of time basing college credit on the study of a science-fiction show.

Well, I must disagree.

Star Trek has never been just a TV show. True, it began that way; but Gene Roddenberry always wanted it to be more, and he made it so. He began work on *Star Trek* in 1960: "The television writer-producer faces an almost impossible task when he attempts to create and produce a quality TV series. Assuming he conceived a program of such meaning and importance that it could ultimately change the face of America, he could probable not get it on the air or keep it there!"

Roddenberry had a vision for *Star Trek*. Yes, it was meant to be entertainment, but he meant for it to be much more. Roddenberry wanted a medium that would comment on the issues of the day, and educate the American people. He wanted to change a troubled society for the better. An experienced writer and TV producer, Roddenberry knew that what he wanted to do would be almost impossible. This was a time when American television was primarily an entertainment/advertising medium, only marginally concerned with news or social commentary. The most popular shows on TV were westerns: *Gunsmoke, Rawhide, Bonanza, Wagon Train*. Except for *Highway Patrol* and *Dragnet*, the cop show was an unknown; the same could be said for situation comedies. Only *I Love Lucy* and *The Honeymooners* were solid as far as the networks were concerned, and that was only because experience actors well known to the public were cast in them. In the early 1960s, westerns were the anchor of network programming; cop shows and sitcoms were in their infancy, as were sports TV and what would later become known as the "newsmagazine." As a result the networks--ABC, CBS, and NBC, who ruled the TV airwaves in these pre-cable, pre-satellite days--used what worked, and what was safe. Safe not only with viewers, but advertisers. That meant westerns et cetera.

Roddenberry sold *Star Trek* to NBC by saying that it would be a "*Wagon Train* in space–instead of a covered wagon, they'll use a spaceship." That was a ruse; he meant for *Star Trek* to be much more than just a space version of *Wagon Train*, and he succeeded brilliantly. The ruse was necessary because without it NBC would never have aired *Star Trek* at all, let alone for as long.



When I talk with people–especially young people–about *Star Trek*, they always say how bad the original '60s version is. I challenge them; I remind them of the climate of the time. There was a certain amount of sex and violence necessary to keeping the show on the air, and Roddenberry knew this; he had to keep the network and advertisers pacified. I remind people that even then, Roddenberry had some things to say.. He used *Star Trek* as a medium for social commentary. He used *Star Trek* to speak out against war, and the Vietnam War in particular; as a veteran of WWII, he knew the horrors of war firsthand. He knew that conflicts between cultures may never go away; he updated technology and gave *Star Trek* a Cold War, casting the Klingons as the Russians and the Romulans as the Chinese. Roddenberry used *Star Trek* as a medium to speak out against war, poverty, racism, sexism, homophobia, "the white man's burden," pollution, totalitarianism, senseless violence and the destruction of the environment, to name a few. He employed a multi-cultural cast–which wasn't easy–because he knew that a day would come when people are measured not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. And like H.G. Wells, he knew that he could get his message through if he passed it off as "science-fiction."

Roddenberry used* Star Trek *as a medium to speak out against war, poverty, racism, sexism, homophobia, "the white man's burden," pollution, totalitarianism, senseless violence and the destruction of the environment, to name a few.

In 1967, Martin Luther King, was in Los Angeles, and he spent a little time with Nichelle Nichols, who portrays Commander Uhura in the original *Star Trek*. At the time Nichols was very unhappy with her role on *Star Trek*. Her character wasn't being developed enough, she told King, and was thinking about quitting the show.

King gently urged her to reconsider. He reminded her that she was the *only* black person–let alone a black woman–on nationwide TV who was cast in a professional–even military–role. Moreover, she was an independent woman, not tied to a man for her status (except for the Captain, and *everyone*, even the white men had to follow his orders). King reminded Nichols of the tremendous hope and pride and honor she brought to the black community by her presence on the show. King reminded her that her role on *Star Trek* was bigger than she herself–as Uhura, she was inspiring blacks and educating whites. He recommended that if she was unhappy with her role she should discuss it with Roddenberry and the writers.

She did. The writers began giving Uhura more depth, and Nichols stayed.

Twenty-five years later, Whoopi Goldberg was on *Arsenio*. When asked how she came to be on *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, she smiled. "When I was young I used to watch Nichelle Nichols on *Star Trek*. At that time, to see a beautiful black woman in a role like that, was very powerful for me. She inspired me. And when I'd made it in show business and the opportunity to do *Star Trek* came, I went for it. Thank you, Nichelle."

Thurston County Rainbow Coalition and Works In Progress Present

HOMELESS NEWS AND VIEWS

Volume 1, Number 4 | March 1994

TASK FORCE SEEKS (and finds?) REPLACEMENT FOR FIRST BAPTIST SHELTER AS DEADLINE NEARS

Editor's Note: *The following chronicle of the Homeless Services Community Task Force (HSCTF) is rather detailed; some might argue excessively detailed by contemporary journalistic standards. I decided against editing it against these standards because I believe there is a need for our homeless readership to know how the HSCTF decision making process worked (or didn't work). If you are a reader whose needs are strictly news-oriented, then I'd advise you to skip down to the* **Week 6, page 9**. Homeless News and Views *encourages other Task Force meeting attendees who disagree with my interpretation of the proceedings to submit differing perspectives for the April issue.*

Rick Hoonan

SCHEM's potluck on Feb. 13th focused on informing our community about the HCFTF's shelter proposal, presented Feb. 11th.

***Week 4*, January 28th** (Mayor Bob Jacobs filled in for Margaret McPhee.) As reported in last month's issue of *HN&V*, several alternative sites for a new men's shelter were to be investigated by delegated members of the Task Force after the Week 3 meeting (Jan. 21st). Before getting into the follow-up reports, however, Dick Nichols started out the meeting by summarizing the three "assumptions" that the Housing Community Services Task Force (HSCTF) had arrived at thus far: (a) a shelter must be up and running by March 1st, (b) it must serve 70 men, with an "overflow" capability of 15-20 men, and (c) since the Task Force was seeking to maximize Olympia's existing facilities, the Salvation Army had been designated as the "primary caretaker". He then asked for feedback.

Sam Hochstatter, Pastor of the First Baptist Church, and Ralph Smith, Homeless Representative, both voiced concerns regarding whether the Salvation Army should be considered a viable shelter alternative. Smith, who also helps out regularly at the Bread & Roses Drop-In Center, remarked that he had informally polled many homeless men on this issue, and the majority had said that there was "no way" that they would stay at the Salvation Army. As Smith put it, there was a "loud silence" between the Army's shelter staff and the homeless, and it was unlikely that the "old wounds" resulting from this silence could be healed by March 1st.

Surprisingly, however, Smith also said that many homeless men thought that the Salvation Army's rules were "workable," with only two troublesome exceptions: the Breathalyzer test given to those men who appear intoxicated (those blowing a .08 or higher are not admitted), and the picture I.D. requirement. [See related story this issue for a complete list of the Salvation Army's shelter rules.]

Follow-up site reports: good news and bad news

With the real world prospects for the Salvation Army shelter being fully utilized after March 1 being questionable, the HSCTF turned to looking into other possible sites for shelter. Unfortunately, though, the sites chosen for inspection (The Evergreen State College, the Tumwater Nursing home, the National Guard Armories in both Olympia and Tumwater, Yardbirds building, the Lacey Community Center, and the Thurston County Food Bank) were all dismissed as highly unlikely or impossible shelter candidates for various reasons. So much for the "bad news".

The "good news" was scant, but hopeful, nonetheless. Ken Schwilk of Associated Ministries, who had been looking into finding help from local churches, reported that he had discovered "three potential helpers," but that these churches needed to have more information about how much would be expected of them from the community. He also added that it was unlikely that these three churches could be of much help by March 1st. Also, Walt Jorgenson, Tumwater City Council, reported that the Tumwater Fire Station and former City Hall building had "a lot of pluses," and he recommended that the Task Force follow-up by inspecting the building soon.

"Transitional" or "Emergency"? Rules and principles

During the previous week, Mike Allen of the Salvation Army and Ralph Smith had met to discuss ways of minimizing the effects of the "old wounds" between the homeless and the Salvation Army's staff. Each summarized the agenda of this informal meeting at this week's Task Force meeting. Smith repeated his concern regarding the "attitude problem" of the Salvation Army shelter staff, while Mike Allen argued that the problem was not with his staff, but with the expectations of the homeless men. In Allen's opinion, the Salvation Army shelter was built to be an *emergency* shelter, rather than what some people have called a "transitional shelter". (In a transitional shelter scenario, homeless clients are provided with an extended period of time to find the economic means to maintain permanent housing. Some have argued that this term is meaningless; that its definition implies that it is "transitional housing," rather than a shelter.) Judged against these standards, and by the standards of other emergency shelters along the I-5 corridor, Allen argued that the Salvation Army's policies, which limit a person's length of stay to a conditional 60 day maximum, were not unduly harsh or unusual.

In order to clarify how the First Baptist shelter was different in service design from the Salvation Army, Pastor Sam then read the "Operating Principles" of the

(Continued next page)

CORRECTION

In the "First Baptist SHELTER LOG" article printed in our last issue, I was in error about the funding that the First Baptist Church had been receiving and allegedly spent. I stated that "The Church has long since used up the $20,000 allocated by the Olympia City Council last February, and has had to pay Shelter expenses out of its own pocket for several months."

This statement is erroneous. Ken Schwilk of Associated Ministries and Pastor Sam Hochstatter both informed me that I had confused the $20,000 City Council allocation with another $20,000 sum, a grant that Pastor Sam had acquired through the American Baptist Church. *This* $20,000 was the sum that had "long since been used up," with the City Council $20,000 never being accepted by the First Baptist congregation. My apologies to all concerned.

Statement of Purpose

WiP's aim in publishing *Homeless News and Views* is threefold: (1) First and foremost, we wish to make some contribution to dispelling the narrow misconceptions about who the homeless are and how these *individuals* became homeless. We believe that this can best be accomplished by (2) granting homeless individuals a free, uncensored medium with which to tell their stories, voice their concerns, and exchange information. By doing so, (3) the homeless will hopefully become more in our community's imagination than a faceless mass of people without homes—perhaps we who *have* homes will begin to understand the importance of considering what the homeless have to offer the future of our community rather than by what they lack in the immediate present.

Homeless News and Views is seeking articles, poetry, photography, or artwork concerning homelessness. Homeless contributors are given top priority, but anyone wishing to make relevant submissions are urged to do so. All interested parties may contact the editor, Greg Hohnholt, at 943-5315. If you wish to be interviewed, require access to a word processor, or would like some assistance with getting your thoughts into print, please call to make arrangements to meet with Greg. Thank you!

WORKS IN PROGRESS: PO Box 295 Olympia, WA 98507

First Baptist shelter [see story page 1]. The audience, made up mostly of homeless advocates or homeless men themselves, responded by applauding. Hochstatter admitted, however, that it was unlikely that these principles could be put in force in a permanent facility like the Salvation Army's, and that since First Baptist was designed to be temporary, the two shelters really couldn't be compared. Allen himself responded to the "Operating Principles" by saying that "We [Salvation Army staff] don't do those things. If that's considered dehumanizing, so be it."

At this point, Mayor Bob Jacobs asked for some clarification on the Task Force's use of the word "emergency". Were they discussing the short term service design of the shelter, or the fact that a replacement shelter was needed by March 1st? In his opinion, the latter definition was primary. The Task Force seemed split on this issue, but since time was running short, Dick Nichols shifted the focus of the meeting to finding out more about the Tumwater Fire Station/City Hall building.

Walt Jorgenson remarked that while he was concerned about what the impact of a Tumwater shelter would be on property values, the layout of the City hall building, which included four rest rooms, a shower, a break area, and four entrance/exits, seemed workable as a shelter site. Ralph Smith, who had also inspected the building, added that he considered it an "instant move situation". He also liked the building because of its potential for becoming a long term solution rather than a "quick fix".

The meeting was then turned over to the public, with most comments being related to how unrealistic it was for the HSCTF to consider the Salvation Army as a primary shelter option. Others expressed support for the Tumwater building, and Gene Hoover of H.E.L.P. (Homeless Empowerment Lodging Project) submitted some information to the Task Force concerning the need to define the new shelter as "transitional" rather than "emergency". He also presented what he and Tim Leipold, the First Baptist Shelter Coordinator, called a "Transitional Shelter 'Sketch'", i.e. what the operational design of a transitional shelter should look like in our community.

Dick Nichols closed the meeting by suggesting that the Task Force inspect the Tumwater City Hall building as a group on the following Monday, January 31st, at 1:00 PM, and that some ideas for funding be looked into. He also said that before transitional housing needs could be accurately assessed, there needed to be some way of making sure that resources, in the form of existing services to the homeless, were being matched to people with needs.

Ralph Smith suggested that the next Task Force meeting, since it was to be concerned with "Public input on options," be held at the Bread & Roses Drop-In Center on Cherry St. This suggestion was approved.

Tumwater Fire Station/City Hall meeting, Monday, January 31:

(The HSCTF members that attended were Walt Jorgenson, Pastor Sam Hochstatter, Brad Griswold, Ken Schwilk, Dick Hinkle, and Ralph Smith.) Most of the two hour meeting following the informal inspection of this building was facilitated by Walt Jorgenson, who provided pertinent information regarding the feasibility of using the former Tumwater City Hall building as a men's shelter. The following critical points were discussed:

(a) While the Fire Station directly below the now unused City Hall Council Chambers was still in operation, the entire building would be officially up for sale when the new North End Fire Station, now being built, would be available for use in November of this year. Therefore, the Tumwater building could only be considered a temporary replacement for the First Baptist shelter.

(b) Two "specific concerns" were most prominent at this meeting: first and foremost was what Jorgenson termed the "Public Safety" issue. Under this category, he cited neighborhood security (would homeless men pose a threat to the children in the area?), the location of the building (due to its accessibility to I-5, it is presumed that the new Tumwater shelter could become a "magnet," drawing many transients from as far away as California), the possibility of increased drug traffic, and "illegal and undesirable activity in general." The other major concern was the shelter's effect on property values (the "NIMBY issue").

(c) Funding—what kind of proposal could Jorgenson make to the Tumwater City Council on the following day?

(d) Transportation—getting the men to and from Tumwater efficiently.

(e) Operational design—who creates the rule structure? How do we make it safe *and* user friendly?

Unlike the other formal Task Force meetings, public comment was invited throughout the discussion. Mel Foster, a homeless man who serves on the Board of Directors for SCHEM, addressed the public safety issue by asserting that "95% of the homeless have the same mainstream values as the people on the hill" (in reference to the people in the surrounding area), and that many were family men with a "parental attitude" towards children in general. Jorgenson replied by asking "What do we do about the 5% troublesome minority?" Pastor Hochstatter and Tim Leipold both commented that it was better (and safer for the community) to let this 5% into the shelter where their behavior problems could be contained and worked with on a one-to-one basis. These comments raised questions about operational design of the new shelter, and whether homeless men could be called upon to create and maintain a rule structure that ensured the safety of the community-at-large.

It soon appeared clear to everyone present that with so many points of possible contention on the table, it was highly unlikely that the Tumwater City Council would favor transforming the City Hall into a men's shelter, especially by March 1st. Hinkle commented that the only two responses were likely; a "hell, no," or "maybe," and in either case, public support would be tenuous at best. With this sobering thought in mind, the group nevertheless spent the remaining hour or so of the meeting working out a proposal for the following evening's City Council meeting.

Tumwater City Council meeting, February 1 I didn't attend, but detailed, lengthy explanations are superfluous, anyway. The shelter proposal was trashed—period.

Time out for a short editorial

For me, this chapter of the HSCTF saga epitomized how difficult it is to discredit the NIMBY phenomenon among middle class property owners. Even though the First Baptist shelter has been operating for 16 months at low cost and with little or no impact on the surrounding community, the public perception of homeless men remains stagnated in panic-crazed ignorance. It only takes a few homeowners to raise an outcry, and politicians, fearful of losing favor with their constituencies, are forced into opting for short-sighted band-aid measures (e.g. expanding the Salvation Army facility). These "quick fixes," while appearing to be humanitarian on the surface, actually make it much more likely that chronic homelessness, which feeds off of individual despair and lack of hope for a better future, will increase. The end result is inevitable: more self-destructive acting out, more substance abuse, more criminal behavior, *and* less *public safety* —presumably what all the NIMBY proponents are striving so hard to protect.

Ironic, isn't it? Like the old Fram oil filter commercials used to say, "You can pay me now, or you can pay me later." Walt Jorgenson seemed to be the only Tumwater resident who recognized the dangers of paying later—too bad his fellow neighbors don't share his capacity for enlightened decision making and community vision.

Week 5, **February 4** (At Bread & Roses Drop-In Center, Cherry St.; Cindy Cecil was absent.) This was an emotionally-charged meeting; one that again highlighted the division that exists between an informal coalition of single homeless men of Olympia and their advocates, and the Salvation Army. It was also the first Task Force meeting that was conducted without a documented agenda, which contributed to its loose, unstructured and occasionally chaotic temperament. Intended to be a public forum, it was instead roughly split between about an hour of Task Force seminar, and an hour of public comment/Task Force response.

The seminar portion of the meeting began with a brief summary of the February 1st Tumwater City Council meeting. As Walt Jorgenson put it, there was an "unambiguous refusal [by Tumwater residents] to consider the site." He cited the NIMBY and public safety issues as primary obstacles. At this point, an angry homeless veteran, Larry Christoffer, interrupted the meeting by making a loud demand for affordable housing. The audience responded by clapping and cheering. After the audience noise had died down and Christoffer led away, Ralph Smith, Homeless Representative, seized this incident as an opportunity to illustrate the unwieldiness of the Salvation Army's policies. He challenged the rest of the Task Force to tell him where Larry would be expected to stay after March 1st.

Many audience members continued to noisily voice their support for this sentiment, and Dick Nichols, in an attempt to maintain order, responded by telling the audience to "shut up and let the Task Force do its work." He then reiterated his concern to finding some way of making the Salvation Army a workable option, since the un-

Tell the HSCTF wh

Listed below are the phone numbers of the
Give them a call and let them know about
other positive solutions that you feel have

Dick Nichols	786-5440
Bill Bush	491-3214
Mike Allen	352-8596
Brad Griswold	943-0840
Pastor Sam Hochstatter	357-3881
Ralph Smith	705-1125/754-4085

popular facility was, at present, the only building available for immediate use by March 1st.

Mike Allen answered Smith by arguing that the Salvation Army was "not a convalescent facility," and that it "[could not] help people like Larry." He also insisted that the "First Baptist rules won't work for a permanent shelter," and that the Salvation Army "[would not] take responsibility for self destructive behavior; there are detox programs for these people."

This dialogue channeled the rest of the seminar portion of the meeting into a discussion about what to do about the "marginal persons" like Larry, who would clearly not be welcome at the Salvation Army. David Fawver, a staff person at the First Baptist Shelter, argued that in his experience as an outreach worker for substance abusers, getting people into overburdened treatment programs was often impossible. Long waiting periods and a shortage of beds were the norm. In Fawver's opinion, the Salvation Army's restriction against alcoholics amounted to a "if we can't fix you, then the hell with you" attitude. Under these circumstances, he asked, did it make moral sense for the Salvation Army to deny these men shelter?

Pastor Hochstatter, asked for his opinion on this issue, made a plea for the new shelter to put an emphasis on intimacy. He recounted how someone had "interfaced" with him as when he was a troubled adolescent of twelve, which gave him the opportunity to "get in touch with his humanity." Citing the example of a former homeless man staying at the First Baptist shelter who had taken six months to get enrolled into a computer school in Florida, he added that "It takes time to reach some people. I don't want to give up on anyone." Mike Allen responded by saying that "We have a responsibility problem, we have a treatment problem. The Salvation Army is not the problem."

This issue was never really resolved. With no other available options besides the Salvation Army shelter expansion, it was Dick Nichols' opinion that the Task Force address the "public perception" problem that this facility was facing. He then solicited the Task Force members' opinions. (I should mention that while all of the above proceedings were taking place, Larry Christoffer would intermittently erupt and berate the Task Force directly by asking "Do you have a home, sir?", or "Are you being paid for being here, sir?" He would then be led away by audience members, usually muttering "cocksucking bureaucrats," or something similar loud enough for all to hear.)

Ralph Smith's comments were the most memorable. Referring to the NIMBY attitude that Tumwater had taken, he said that if an alternative to the Salvation Army proposal wasn't found, "we [the homeless] will end up in your *front* yard".

The public comment that followed was roughly split into two sections: the first 45-50 minute segment could be categorized as general dissatisfaction with the Salvation Army proposal or the Salvation Army itself (with two notable exceptions: one gentlemen, who spoke at length in support of the Salvation Army's policies, and a seventeen year old minor named Melissa, who protested the fact that because of her age, she had no shelter options whatsoever), with the much shorter second 15-20 minute segment being a response to a challenge that Brad Griswold made to the audience; to cite specific alternative shelter solutions, rather than simply criticizing the Task Force.

Martin Lee of SCHEM made two suggestions; to have the city put up a tent city in one of its parks, or to convert the Olympia Community Center into a temporary shelter. Another homeless advocate from Seattle suggested that a number of churches other than First Baptist be utilized as temporary shelters. Still another man asked the Task Force to seriously consider what it was doing by making the Salvation Army the primary caretaker in its action plan. He argued that, in effect, the HSCTF was sanctioning those not allowed into the Salvation Army shelter to sleep on the streets.

The Task Force addressed only the church solution directly. Dick Nichols replied that this possibility was being researched by Ken Schwilk, but that it was unlikely any help could be secured by March 1st. Ken then reported that one of the three churches that had expressed interest in opening its doors to the homeless had withdrawn its support.

***Week 6*, February 11** At this surprising meeting, the HSCTF unveiled a new, four part "inte-

(Continued next page)

'F what *you* think!

ers of the eleven Task Force members.
ow about any possible shelter sites, or
feel have not been considered:

)	Margaret McPhee	753-8450
4	Walt Jorgenson	754-4120
5	Cindy Cecil	458-7000
)	Dick Hinkle	491-5483
1	Ken Schwilk	357-7224
5		

February 1st and 2nd, 1994

Report from the Affordable Housing Conference

by Letitia Flynt

According to the program guide, the purpose of the "Key to Our Future: Unlocking Opportunities" statewide conference was to "focus on issues related to affordable housing in Washington state," while providing attendees with "information about financing, future trends, and legislation that will help [them] in [their] mission to provide affordable housing to members of our state." Not knowing the emphasis or direction of this conference ahead of time, however, the Sustainable Community Homeless Empowerment Movement (SCHEM) took a chance and gambled $75 to have a delegate (yours truly) attend this two day event. While this conference failed to define how affordable housing is being (or could be) developed for those in actual *need* of housing, it did "pay off" in another, more practical way: it defined which subpopulations, in the present and future, *will be afforded housing* under current government guidelines.

Confused? I was, too, until Nicholas Retsinas, recently selected by President Bill Clinton to be Assistant Secretary for Housing and FHA Commissioner for HUD, summed up the entire conference in two points during his opening statement. Representing the voice of Capitol Hill, Mr. Retsinas emphasized that (1) the priorities of the Clinton Administration with respect to the business of public housing is just that; it is a *business* (i.e. profit-making). In retrospect, I don't know why this first point hit me so hard or why I was even surprised to hear business being put first and human well-being far down the list of considerations, but it did, nonetheless. (2) The second point, and a far more promising one than the first, in my opinion, is contained within this quote: "The definition of a leader is to find a good parade and run like hell to get in front of it." It appears possible that those needing affordable housing could form a sizeable "parade" if properly organized, thus prompting those on Capitol Hill to "run like hell" to catch us!

If Mr. Retsinas comments are an accurate indicator of what intends to be done for the homeless during the Clinton Administration, broad-based political organizing appears to be our only viable option. For while there were several innovative land use and 'first home' funding proposals made, they are only being made available to selected economic subpopulations of the US. For example, one of these 'first home' funding programs is granted if you happen to be at or close to 80% of the Federal poverty level. In pure dollars and cents, this means that a single individual must have a gross yearly income in the $20,000 a year range, a reality that many of us who are underemployed, on disability, fixed incomes, or even some of us working in the public sector will not even come close to.

So it seems that we are yet again (and perhaps gratefully) thrown back on our own resources: perhaps our talents, creativity, courage, and maybe the brazen gall and daring to take 100% responsibility for ourselves are our only trustworthy advocates. It is only those who are in need of affordable housing that will research and develop our own solutions for a sustainable future. I, for one, am in favor of making a sustainable community plan to be tentatively entitled *Developing the 'Good Parade'* and marching forward. Thank you, Mr. Retsinas!

Postscript: The most enjoyable part of the entire conference for me was when SCHEM members and our friends from the Seattle homeless community marched into the panel discussion entitled "Public Policy Towards Homelessness: How Can We Help the Homeless?" on February 1st. Most of the Seattle group were there to protest the fact that Seattle City Attorney Mark Sidran, whose recently passed laws prohibiting the homeless from panhandling or even sitting on sidewalks, was a panelist in this discussion. During the public part of the forum, many of the Seattle group spoke out, both eloquently and angrily, against these laws, which propose to "lock them [the homeless] up" (after all, they're either criminals, mentally ill, or drunk).

While Mark Sidran failed to make an appearance, the homeless nevertheless defended their dignity and self-respect in a way that I am sure Mr. Sidran will hear loud and clear for a very long time in the near future. I would like to congratulate our Seattle friends for a job well done! You *were* heard by those attending this meeting. Thank you; I'm proud to be considered among your numbers.

(Task Force, continued)

grated systems" shelter proposal which included both emergency shelter and transitional housing elements. Since the majority of the meeting was a presentation of this proposal by Dean Hanks, John Walsh, Chris Lowell, and Pat Libby of the HSCTF staff, I will concentrate on summarizing the proposal itself instead of the actual proceedings.

The Big Picture: The HSCTF proposal begins with (1) a "single man intake" center being established at Bread & Roses. Here, the men's needs would be evaluated and assessed, and then, as Dean Hanks put it, "they would be frankly told where they would go": either to (2) the Salvation Army facility, (3) one of three temporary "Specialty Shelters" operating out of existing churches and supervised by the Community Action Council (CAC), or (4) into a transitional housing program provided by the Housing Authority of Thurston County (HATC). The Salvation Army is still the "primary caretaker" in this revamped scenario, but Hanks emphasized that "if you have special needs, you won't go to the Salvation Army".

1) Bread & Roses Intake: This is to be a "central referral site" coordinated and staffed by the CAC. One staff person will work from 3 to 7 PM each day referring men to either the Salvation Army, a Specialty Shelter, or "other options and services". After being assessed, vouchers will be issued, and the men directed to appropriate services. Another volunteer will work 20 hours weekly to "coordinate services with local shelters, other agencies, and shelter users, and assist in the development of resources to develop a permanent shelter plan in Thurston County."

2) Salvation Army: For its contribution to the HSCTF's proposal, the Salvation Army had agreed to (a) hire at least one additional full time staff person for the men's section of its facility, (b) to modify one of its existing shelter rules, and (c) to add a "new transitional component" to its program.

The rule change will allow men outside after check-in, but it is conditional upon finding funding for a full-time clerk, and whether men are caught drinking outside any time after the rule change is made. If someone is caught drinking while outside, no one would not be allowed to leave the shelter. In addition to this rule change, a picture I.D. will no longer be an absolute requirement, at least in the initial period of the Salvation Army's expansion after March 1st.

The 'transitional component' will allow men to stay at the shelter up to six months, instead of the previous 60 day maximum. However, the Salvation Army's unpopular savings program, which requires that shelter users set aside 85% of their assets with the Salvation Army, will remain unchanged. The goal here is to assure that as many men as possible are working towards securing permanent housing.

3) "Specialty Shelters": This is the newest component of the Task Force's proposal. As such, John Walsh of the CAC emphasized that his presentation was only a draft, and that many considerations (e.g. funding for staff, shelter site locations, and how long the shelters would remain in operation) were still either uncertain or open to revision.

The aim of the 'Specialty Shelters' is to target specific subpopulations within the homeless men community that cannot stay at the Salvation Army, and to give these men the opportunity to have shelter while simultaneously being matched up with detox, mental health, or other available treatment services. In frank terms, the CAC's plan is to find three or four churches that will agree to shelter 10-15 men nightly, in exchange for the CAC removing the burden of operating and funding these shelters off of the churches themselves. In addition, the CAC has agreed to train all staff members and supervise each of the Specialty Shelter's administration and support services.

4) Transitional housing programs: Chris Lowell of the HATC outlined three programs that would work toward easing our homeless population's dependency on shelter services. A maximum of 40 individuals will be served, with half of the apartment spaces being set aside for applicants eligible to access the (1) Resource Service Network (RSN) mental health system (a federally funded program), with the remaining 20 individuals being evenly split between (2) an apartment sharing/advocacy program, and (3) a subsidized apartment rental program.

The **RSN program** would provide a 70% rent subsidy to qualified applicants for a period of one year. Outreach workers from the HATC staff would assist individuals in both locating affordable housing and removing common roadblocks such as costly credit checks and discriminatory rent deposits. Users of this program would not be parceled out to an exclusionary housing complex; the goal here with this program, as Lowell put it, is to "blend [the homeless] back into the community."

The **apartment sharing program** will secure five apartments for five pairs of single homeless men to share. No rent subsidies would be offered, but HATC case managers will provide "advocacy, support services, and follow-up" for the ten men who qualify for this program. Lowell remarked that a similar HATC program, which worked exclusively with families, had been very successful.

The **subsidized apartment rental program** will provide rent subsidies of $150-200 to either single individuals wanting their own apartment, or to pairs wishing to share an apartment. Since this is the only one of the three programs requiring HATC funding, Lowell admitted that the first two programs would get the highest priority.

At this point in the meeting, Pat Libby summarized the HSCTF proposal, and briefly described the process by which its "integrated systems" approach had evolved. He admitted that it wasn't perfect, but that it was "do-able", and that it fulfilled the Task Force's commitment, made at their first January 5th meeting, to arrive at a consensus-based decision.

Dick Nichols then took the floor to talk about a possible future funding source from the Human Resources Service Committee (HSRC). Of the HSRC's total annual budget of $320,000, Dick said that as much as $60,000 of these monies per year could be allocated for a three year homeless men's transitional housing pilot program, starting January 1995. This program would have to develop outside funding sources within this three year initiation period and become "autonomous after awhile," presumably after fiscal 1998.

Nichols admitted that this proposal didn't come without a catch. As he put it, "Some other organizations [presently receiving HSRC funding] might take a potential hit." He nonetheless felt that giving this plan serious consideration was consistent with the HSRC's top funding priorities: *safety* first, *shelter* second, and *food* third. These priorities had to be reassessed on a yearly basis, with new needs sometimes having to take precedence over programs that receive HSRC funding consistently year after year.

The rest of the meeting was less formal and "presentation-oriented," and concentrated on the problems that the Task Force had yet to overcome to implement its proposal. The first problem to address was the question of where the Specialty Shelters would be located. Walt Jorgenson went over the list of eight possibilities already offered by the Task Force, and suggested that "none would qualify as Specialty Shelters." Ken Schwilk brought up the two churches that were still open to sheltering homeless men, and said that he was very concerned about finding funding sources for staffing. He estimated that each Specialty Shelter would require roughly $40,000 a year for staff alone. Brad Griswold agreed that a "funding model" for these shelters needed to be created as soon as possible.

Public comment was then invited. This week's meeting was much less well attended than previous weeks, with the homeless community being conspicuously absent. Nevertheless, there were mostly positive remarks for the HSCTF staff. Pastor Sam himself said that he had told the First Baptist congregation after last week's meeting that the Task Force now "needed a miracle, an angel;" and that after today's meeting, he thought he could hear "the flapping of wings."

At least one person, however, registered a lack of faith with the Task Force, especially with the "Specialty Shelter" part of their proposal. This man expressed concern about what kind of rule system the CAC planned to implement at these shelters, and whether the homeless men would be offered the opportunity to run and

(Continued page 15, WIP section)

Callousness Is Not A Virtue

by Lynn Villella

Had you lived what I have lived through
You would know that I have tried.
I had a home once
And a family
But I lost them and I cried.
Death of loved ones and hardship happens.
It can happen any time.
Having problems is very human.
It's wrong to try and make them a crime.
So don't assume that I deserve this;
To have no place to call my own.
I have my strengths and values intact

I just need to find a home.

LATE BREAKING HOMELESS NEWS ANNOUNCEMENTS

- SCHEM and a group of homeless supporters is organizing a boycott of the Salvation Army shelter. They are planning to make this intention known to the Homeless Services Community Task Force at the final February 25th HSCTF meeting, to be held from10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Thurston County Courthouse, Building #1, Room 280.
- SCHEM is also coordinating a homeless rally to be held at the Capitol Rotunda, Tuesday, March 1st, at 12:00 PM.
- *Homeless News and Views* wishes to broaden its focus and include more submissions regarding our community's homeless youth, women, and families. Please call Greg at 943-5315 if you would like to see your story in print — DO IT TODAY.

Farmworkers Working to Build on Past Victories

Teresa Poor

Seven years ago, farm workers at a UST (formerly known as U.S. Tobacco) owned vineyard called for the boycott of Chateau Ste Michelle, Columbia Crest, Farron Ridge, Snoqualmie, Saddle Mountain, Allison Combs, Conn Creek, and Villa Mt. Eden wines. This boycott and the farm workers' struggle for democracy and justice continues today.

In 1987, farm workers at a Chateau Ste Michelle vineyard presented a list of grievances about an abusive foreman to the management. The management at Chateau Ste Michelle (CSM) refused to redress the grievances and a day later, arbitrarily reduced wages. In response to the wage reduction the farm workers staged a work stoppage. CSM then proceeded to fire thirteen workers who were objecting to the arbitrary wage reduction.

After meeting with the United Farm Workers of Washington State and discussing their grievances with the winery, which included racism, dangerous working conditions like serious exposure to pesticides, and the firing of workers who were standing up for their rights, the majority of ranch employees designated the UFWWS by signing authorization cards. The UFWWS then wrote to CSM requesting that the fired workers be rehired. CSM did not respond to the letter and later refused to negotiate with the farm workers. By ignoring workers' rights, CSM, in essence, forced the workers to call for a boycott of the wines.

From 1987 to today, the farm workers and the UFWWS have been struggling successfully to gain workers' rights. For example, in 1987, because of organizing efforts, State Labor and Industries cited Stimson Lane for violations of field sanitation regulations. In 1992, in an out of court settlement dealing with a harassment and discriminatory discharge lawsuit, 34 current and ex-farm workers accepted a settlement valued at twice the value of the lawsuit, UST apologized for the harassment and discriminatory discharge of the workers and offered to reinstate those whom it fired illegally. Finally, because of farm workers' efforts, organizing, and the boycott, UST owned Chateau Ste Michelle now complies with the state laws that require it to provide bathrooms, potable water, and adequate pesticide protection to the people who work for it.

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While these improvements are important and point toward positive gains, the struggle for democracy and justice at UST subsidiaries continues because of its refusal to recognize farm workers' rights to democratically choose a union. UST owned Chateau Ste Michelle, after years of blatant racism and harassment, now argues that it is pro labor and would love to negotiate but cannot because no legislation exists which would provide a legal structure for collective bargaining. While it is true that Washington State has not passed this type of legislation (which is not surprising given the historical and present day relationship between growers and politicians, and existing racism), the argument that no legal structure exists which would provide for a collective bargaining agreement is false. Collective bargaining agreements can be negotiated through the judicial system.

By refusing to allow farm workers the right to freely associate with a union and refusing to bargain collectively, what UST/Chateau Ste Michelle is paternally telling the farm workers' and all other workers' who care to listen is that it knows what is best for farm workers and that the few workers' rights that we have in this country should benefit only the light-skinned, the wealthy, and the well educated.

Because of the actions taken by UST owned Chateau Ste Michelle, the boycott and the struggle continues. If you would like to support farm workers' rights to organize, there are many actions you can take. First, you can contact the Olympia Farm Worker Justice Committee at 352-8158 or the UFWWS at (509) 839-3934. Also, on March 5, an all day event will be held at the Vancouver, B.C. International Wine Festival. Many farm workers and supporters will attend this festival in protest of UST's refusal to recognize farm workers' rights. A car pool will be available for people who are interested in attending the wine festival picket. Furthermore, you can inform restaurants which you frequent that you support the boycott of UST owned wines. Finally, feel free to drop CEO Allen Shoup a line at the address Stimson Lane, One Stimson Lane, Woodinville, WA 98702. (The information in this article is provided by the United Farm Workers of Washington State.)

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Who's Doing Your Thinking for You?

WIP News Service

In a society beset by increasingly-complex problems, solutions are more often than not put forward by conservative "think tanks", many of which might more accurately be called "advocacy tanks." Washington state is home to at least six research and public policy organizations. Four define themselves as having a "free market" focus—i.e., limited government involvement in business and a generally open-arms approach to capitalism, both high on the conservative agenda—and one of the four, the Evergreen Freedom Foundation based in Olympia, says it takes a "pro-family" approach to "state tax and budget policies," and deals with "reform of our welfare and education systems."

In 1993, think tanks here attempted to influence the legislature and public opinion by conducting research, churning out numerous articles and reports, scheduling and supplying speakers to meetings and conferences, acting as informed sources for the media, arranging for nationally-known "experts" to appear in Washington state, and in some cases serving as a link between conservative thinkers elsewhere and local right-wing activists. A sampling of issues addressed: education, tax reform, welfare, technology, land use, government "waste," crime and sentencing, health care reform, state employee salaries, and society's moral "confusion."

At present only a few progressive advocacy organizations balance the stream of conservative ideas and solutions pouring from Washington state's tanks. (Only the Evergreen Freedom Foundation spokesperson was comfortable with the designation "conservative." The Discovery Institute and the legislature-funded Washington State Public Policy Institute prefer "nonpartisan," the Washington Institute for Policy Studies chooses "free market," and business's Washington Research Council likes to be called "moderate." UW's Institute for Public Policy and Management did not return our phone calls.) Progressive efforts to influence public policy and educate voters are for the most part fragmented and woefully underfunded. On the national scene the picture is a little better: the liberal Institute for Policy Studies (annual budget of $2 million) and the Brookings Institution (about $17 million) face off with the conservative Heritage Foundation ($19 million; founded on a grant from ultra-conservative beer mogul Joseph Coors) , Hoover Institution ($18.5 million) and American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research ($8 million).

The moral of this story is that voters and legislators would do well to know where their "facts" are coming from. Here's a brief overview of each of six research organizations in Washington state, listed in alphabetical order.

...think tanks here attempted to influence the legislature and public opinion...and in some cases serving as a link between conservative thinkers elsewhere and local right-wing activists.

THE TRADING BLOCK JABBER-WOCKY
$CAPITAL$ RULES THE UNIVERSE... PRIVATIZE!!
HITCH A RIDE ON THE INFORMATION HIGHWAY...
POTENTIAL BEACH FRONT PROPERTIES IN CUBA..... INVADE! KILL, KILL! (SMACK DROOL)
HOO-RAY!.. LOOKS LIKE N.A.F.T.A.'s A REALITY!..
WONDER WHAT'S ON 'EMPTY'-V!
SHIT!
R. FLEMING

Discovery Institute

1201 Third Avenue, 40th floor, Seattle, WA 98101-3099 206-287-3144

The Discovery Institute concentrates on national and international affairs, from the perspective of "what most citizens consider the sound principles of representative democracy, individual liberty, free enterprise, technological advancement, regional cooperation, and internationalism." Projects in 1993: A Revolution in Learning (schools), High Technology and Public Policy (computers), Representative Government and the Future of Public Life (revitalizing the public vocation), Cascadia (cooperation between the U.S. Northwest and western Canada), Environment and People (should government be "trusted" to save the environment), and Attorneys on Trial (the legal profession today.) Budget: confidential. Membership/contributors: individuals "close to" 300, corporations "around" 100.

Evergreen Freedom Foundation

P.O. Box 552, Olympia WA 98507 206-956-3482

EFF describes itself as "a Washington research and public policy organization" with loose ties to "several national research organizations." Its mission statement focuses its efforts on "upholding and strengthening the fundamental principles of individual liberty, free enterprise and responsible and limited government." Free enterprise, pro-family state economic policy, land use and resource management, and welfare and education system reform "through individual responsibility and choice" are "foundation areas" for the group. Budget: 1993 proposed, $167,000. Membership/contributors: 600 active.

Institute for Public Policy and Management

328 Parrington Hall, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195 206-543-0190

IPPM's brochure calls the organization a "research and technical assistance organization within the University of Washington Graduate School of Public Affairs." The Institute attempts to help state and local policymakers and voters to "understand and make sound, well-informed decisions regarding public policy issues." Areas of concern include education policy, social welfare, state fiscal issues, economic development policy, public management issues,and environmental and natural resource issues.

Operating within IPPM are three other groups. The Northwest Policy Center is "dedicated to improving public strategies for maintaining a healthy environment and a vital economy in the states of the Northwest." The Human Services Policy Center, a collaborative effort of the UW graduate schools of Public Affairs, Social Work, Nursing, Communications, Public Health and Community Medicine, and the College of Education, works to foster collaboration among programs providing services to children and families. And the Cascade Center for Public Service provides training for public policy makers and executives.

Washington Institute for Policy Studies

999 Third Avenue, Suite 1060, Seattle, WA 98104 206-467-9561, 1-800-546-4460

The Washington Institute prides itself on being "quoted in virtually every media outlet in the state." Its literature mentions that the research center has been "featured" on the MacNeil-Lehrer News Hour and in the Congressional Quarterly, The National Journal, Forbes, and the Wall Street Journal. The Institute's president, John Carlson, writes a weekly column for the Seattle Times, appeared regularly for awhile on the local CBS television affiliate and now has a radio show on KVI in Seattle. Although staff say that the Institute focuses solely on economic issues, a backgrounder entitled "Washington Institute for Policy Studies" says the organization was founded "on the principles of individual freedom, free enterprise, more accountability for how tax dollars are spent, and the development of private sector solutions for social problems" and Carlson sometimes addresses social issues such as gay rights. The Institute recently started Counterpoint, a bi-monthly 12 page newsmagazine which criticizes the media, and attacks studies and research the Institute says are faulty. Budget: $275,000 to $300,000. Membership/contributors: 550. Member of the State Policy Network (Ft. Wayne, Indiana), which calls itself a "loose network" of think tanks who share a free market orientation.

Washington State Institute for Public Policy

The Evergreen State College, Seminar 3162, MS TA-OO, Olympia, WA 98505 206-866-6000 x6380

The Institute is the Washington state legislature's research arm. Academic specialists from the state's universities work with policy makers and government staff to identify and research key long-term issues. Current projects include the Washington State Family Income Study, which provides information about people on or at risk of becoming eligible for public assistance, and a

(Continued next page)

Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Seeks Recognition

Karen McDonell

At the December 17, 1993 meeting of the State's Wok Group on Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS), Dr. Rick Johnson, who is a Board Certified physician in allergy and internal medicine, gave a presentation on MCS. Dr. Johnson is also a former President of the Washington State Medical Association (WSMA). I am paraphrasing Dr. Johnson's comments, because I could not write fast enough to get whole quotes down. Dr. Johnson reported that MCS is not a new phenomenon, that it has appeared several times previously through history. He said it was first seen in the 1800s and also occurred predominantly in women, with the same symptomotology and it was then said to be caused by some products of the modern world. At that point in time the illness was called "hysteria." The symptoms reappeared some years later, again attributed to new products coming into commerce, and again a very high incidence was prevalent amongst women. It was then referred to new products coming into commerce, and again a very high incidence was prevalent amongst women. It was then referred to as "neurasthenia." The third time these same characteristics appeared in history, they called it "autointoxication." He said that today, this phenomenon is, as it has always been, "mass hysteria." He said MCS is not a disease, it is a belief system. He says there is no evidence of disease progression and that the symptoms are all subjective. He said that each time this patient population has come up with a new theory about etiology, "they" have been able to disprove it. He said they disproved the immune theory, some other theory, and that now these patients are talking about neurotoxicity and he said that they would most likely disprove that idea in short order too. He predicted that this symptom complex will very soon have a new name, and that the name would probably be something like "Environmental Anxiety Disorder." Dr. Johnson reported that he had discussed the value of evoked potentials and EEGs in assessing this problem with a Professor of some medical department at the U of W. He said this professor said theses test are totally "bogus." He also said that these illnesses cannot be tied to the workplace.

The MCS community has made numerous suggestions, provided medical and scientific information, etc., but for every piece of the puzzle we have offered, they have had an argument why it was not acceptable.

Dr. William Roberts, President of the Poison Control Center, said that medicine is so cautious because of mistakes they have made in the past in treating illnesses without a thorough understanding of the efficacy of that treatment without the science to support it. He said that the medical community just wants to be able to test for this. I added that the MCS community is just as interested in being tested, but we have been roadblocked by the Department of Labor & Industries; policy on Chemically Related Illness, which prohibits the authorization of certain diagnostic tools which are showing promise in objectively demonstrating injury. The language in the Interim Agreement on CRI makes it sound as though under certain circumstances, they will authorize the use of these tests, but in fact in reality, MCS claimants are not getting authorization for or acceptance of the findings. L&I will not accept those tests as objective proof, even if they are paid for by someone else. The evoked potentials and EEG, which Dr. Johnson reported were "bogus" are tools which measure disruption in neurotransmission. PET and SPECT scans can measure functional impairment in the brain and body. These tests too are not accepted or authorized. So, while these physicians are reporting that they just want to test us, they have deprived us of the computerized tests that can measure functional impairment objectively and without physician bias. I did comment to the group that if it wasn't one roadblock, it was another. The MCS community has made numerous suggestions, provided medical and scientific information, etc., but for every piece of the puzzle we have offered, they have had an argument why it was not acceptable.

Liliane Bartha, M.D. have a presentation about how Canada is addressing the MCS issue. They are funding a clinic for people with MCS and it already has a three-year waiting list. They are also doing some research.

Cliff Finch, who is with the Association of Washington Businessmen said that his group was bringing in a speaker to their january meeting from the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM). The ACOEM endorses the opinion of Patricia Sparks, M.D., which was adopted by the WSMA. Mr. Finch has, on several occasions, tried to make a connection between MCS and stress, and has posed several questions to ascertain how you make the differentiation between the two.

There was some discussion about funding research, but Dr. Bill Daniel from the U of W pointed out how difficult it is to get the funding for that research. I personally feel that the MCS community would not be terribly trusting of any research that came out of the medical community that is characterizing them as a bunch of hysterical females.

I have been contacted by the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer, the Seattle Times*, and KIRO News. The MCS issue seems to be more important to the media at this time and I think that is partly due to the educational conference sponsored by the Washington Toxics Coalition and WASHCOSH. It appears we are having some success at raising the level of awareness on MCS; we are also raising the dander of the people who have been trying to discredit this movement.

(Thinking?, continued)

study evaluating the effectiveness of state-supported programs for sex offenders and victims of sexual abuse. The Institute is housed at TESC, but is not part of the college. Funding and research direction come from the Washington state legislature.

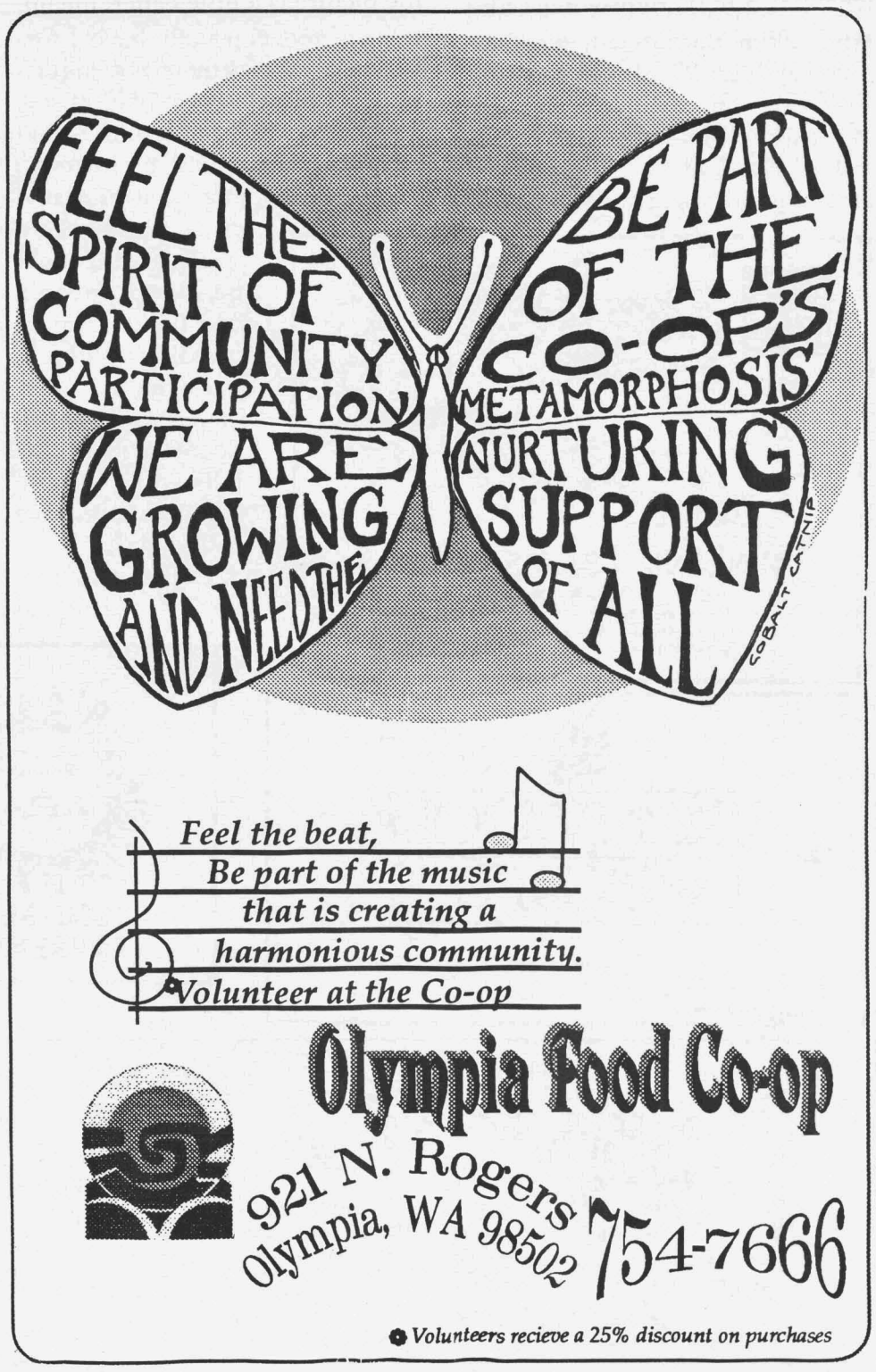
Washington Research Council

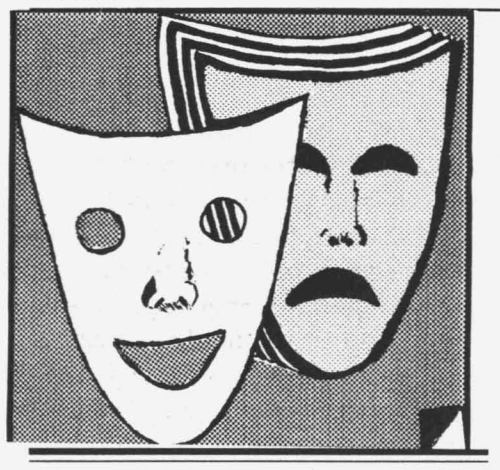
906 S. Columbia, Suite 350, Olympia WA 98501
206-357-6643, 1-800-445-1086

Affiliations of the WRC board of directors read like a "who's got it" of Washington state business: Microsoft, U.S. West, Boeing, Safeco, GTE, Georgia-Pacific, Hewlett Packard, Chevron, Weyerhaeuser, Seafirst, to name a few. At the 1993 annual dinner, Research Council President Richard Davis mentioned the organization's "61 years of commitment to free market principles, fiscal responsibility, efficient government and effective public policy." During the first half of 1993, WRC published reports giving the big business take on health care reform, real estate excise taxes, Initiatives 601 and 602 (intended to limit state spending and tax revenues), and state sales taxes on services such as data processing and bookkeeping. Membership/contributors: 600.

The Center for Competitive Strategies is a division of WRC. According to its Fall, 1993 newsletter, "The Center was established to promote efficient and effective state and local government by analyzing options in the provision of public services; identifying, publicizing and helping to create competitive approaches to accomplish public goals; and providing a forum for the exchange of ideas on ways to create a competitive environment in government."

For more information about think tanks nationally, see Sara Diamond's articles in Z Magazine, especially during 1991, and the San Francisco Examiner series on the subject, "Think Tanks: Turning America Right", May 24, 1992 to May 28, 1992.





Letter From Burlington, Vermont

Ron Jacobs

Hi friends,

It's cold and snowy here. Old timers in the taverns say it used to be like this 30 and 40 years ago. Everybody else just curses, laughs about global warming, or goes skiing. Oh yeh, and wishes for spring. I've started teaching myself guitar and brewing my own beer just to keep from succumbing to cabin fever. And I swear I'll never curse the Northwest rain should I ever live there again.

About the snow, though. It's overwhelming presence is opening a lot of eyes around here about what conservative business-oriented government is all about. I don't know if you remember, but the last election here swept the social democratic Progressive mayor out of office and replaced him with a businessman's Republican. What Bernie Sanders and his crowd began — a worker/tenant oriented government — was replaced by a business/property owners regime. This occurred mostly because a lot of working folks and students in traditionally Progressive ward didn't bother to vote, and the most suburban of the city's districts turned out over 85% of its voters. Now, as folks trudge and slide over sidewalks and roads piled high with snow and ice, they understand what cutting the budget means. Only last year, the city cleared the roads and sidewalks. Of course, the mayor's street is plowed and, of course, he didn't cut his $20,000 a year raise.

Speaking of budget cutters, I saw Bill's speech a couple weeks ago. The man is another Reagan. A slightly different group of benefactors maybe, but the message still seems to be, grin and bear it working people and us rulers and bankers will cheer you on. Then, when it's over, you won't even remember what happened. Sure, there might be a few more people on the streets, but that's why we're building all those new prisons. After all, if people are on the streets too long, eventually they're going to break a law.

And those lawmakers. They say we can't afford to help out undocumented people who lost everything in the LA quake, but at the same time want to spend millions on munitions to save some Bosnians by bombing the hell out of others. It's a bloody mess over there, but I just can't be convinced that high explosives dropped by U.S. warplanes are very humanitarian or are gonna' solve anything. Anyhow, as I was saying about the quake and the immigrants: if you listened to some of those politicians from California, you'd think it was the immigrants who made the earth shake in the first place.

Back to Bill. When I compare him to Reagan, I don't mean he's necessarily as reactionary. In the long view, though, it's like the cliche of the mean cop and the nice cop. Reagan, the mean cop, just beat down those in the way of corporate America's designs. Clinton, on the other had, is the relatively nice cop who coaxes concessions from us without much apparent brutality. But, like Kennedy and LBJ, the nightsticks and tanks are never far from reach should some of the citizenry get tired of giving up its freedoms and, ultimately, its ability to survive. Mean cop or Nice cop, they all work for the same department. and it's global, so the same metaphor applies worldwide.

But, like Kennedy and LBJ, the nightsticks and tanks are never far from reach should some of the citizenry get tired of giving up its freedoms and, ultimately, its ability to survive.

Take care and see ya' around,
Viva Zapata!

Two-Tier to the Rescue

Marvin Saillard

Under the two-tier property tax system, homeowners and small businesses would pay lower property taxes. Since their buildings and improvements usually have 4 to 5 times the value of their land, the tax-rate on land values could be raised, and the tax-rate on buildings and improvements could be lowered, and still collect the same total revenue. Or the land value tax-rate could be raised enough, and the tax-rate on buildings and improvements lowered enough, to still decrease their tax bills while increasing the total revenue collected.

Higher property taxes would be paid by people who own valuable land that is idle or underdeveloped. Under the current single rate property tax system, owners of valuable land are making good locations more scarce and more expensive on the real estate market. They are discouraged from developing or improving their property by the tax penalty levied on any increased values of their homes, buildings and improvements. They are encouraged to hold valuable locations idle or underdeveloped because the low assessment on their property allows them to speculate on higher land-prices in the future.

Future land-price inflation will enable them to reap a large unearned profit at the expense of people who must produce goods and services for a living. Land speculation causes the price of urban land to become so high that private enterprise is unable to build affordable homes for low income workers. The poor use of urban land resulting from speculation restricts the number of jobs which can be created in the community. Workers compete for scarce jobs and drive down wages and benefits. Low income workers and unemployed workers become more numerous. Land speculation causes poverty, unemployment and homelessness, and it creates a fertile environment for crime and violence.

The two-rate property tax system encourages healthy economic growth in the community by placing a lower tax-rate on the value of buildings and improvements. It discourages land speculation and land-price inflation by raising the tax-rate on land values. Owners of idle and underdeveloped land are able to increase their ability to pay the higher taxes on their land by developing it to its highest and best use. This will allow them to earn a high enough gross income to pay their taxes and still provide them with a rewarding income.

Do you want better homes and businesses in your community? Do you want more jobs and higher wage? Do you want lower taxes on your homes and on small businesses? If you do, you should support legislation to study, and then to adopt, the two-tier property tax. House Bill 2768 and Senate Bill 6535 both propose a study of the two-tier property tax system.

Let us use two-tier taxes to encourage a healthy economy.

Marvin is a member of the Washington State Georgist Association, which is a chapter of Common Ground - USA.

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(Task Force, continued)

maintain them. The meeting closed with two site suggestions from another audience member, and a rough rundown of the CAC's homeless census results, a final agenda item that had been overlooked by the Task Force.

Week 7, **February 18** (Cindy Cecil was absent, Mayor Bob Jacobs once again filled in for Margaret McPhee). This meeting focused on finding funding for the proposal outlined above. There was no actual agenda printed up, but this meeting consisted primarily of four distinct parts, nonetheless: (a) a short presentation by Ken Black, (b) a longer and more detailed presentation by John Walsh, (c) a spontaneous discussion on the feasibility of using the Federal Building on Capitol Way, and (d) public comment.

Ken Black's presentation dealt with available revenues for implementing the Task Force's four part, "integrated systems" approach for a period of ten months (March 1st - December 31st, 1994). These monies amounted to $49,000, $31,000 short of the estimated $80,000 needed for this project.

John Walsh then took the floor and presented a second, more detailed draft of the Specialty Shelter budget. He first went over the assumptions that were taken for granted in the drafting of this budget: shelters would be "professionally" staffed, there would be seven day coverage, shelter space would be donated, and the fiscal period of this budget would not exceed nine months.

Walsh explained that most of the funding would be going towards paying personnel. With administrative costs and other necessities, the total he arrived at for a "bare bones" budget for *one* Specialty Shelter was $58,719, about 10K more than available revenues. This led to some discussion about how the budget was going to be stretched or the original proposal modified to make the project workable.

Pastor Hochstatter remarked that the important thing was to get the shelter "up and running;" after that, private donations could keep the shelter solvent. Bill Bush questioned this line of thought, arguing that a church was more likely to be able to raise private monies than a government-run facility. He then suggested that the Task Force go back to the Salvation Army's budget, to see if cuts could be made in the estimated 25K the Salvation Army would need to expand to 70 beds for nine months.

Mike Allen said that cuts would could only be made in staffing, and that the homeless men community had already indicated that being monitored with video cameras rather than by another staff person was unacceptable.

John Walsh then went into a short talk about what he termed "fiscal hydraulics," meaning that his proposed budget was not a stagnant entity, and that it could most likely be "hammered down" over the nine month period. Most of these reductions would be in the intake staffing done at Bread & Roses. Presumably, Walsh argued, the need for full time staff in the first two months would be critical since the existing homeless men population all needed to be assessed and referred to the proper shelter. After this initial need had been dealt with, the staff could possibly be cut from the proposed 1.6 (with 1.0 being equivalent to a full time staff person) to approximately .75 over the course of the nine month period.

Response to this possibility was broad. Pastor Hochstatter suggested that the community needed to become more "personally involved" with the homeless issue in general, and that "rattling a tin cup" was perhaps the best way to bring their involvement about on a consistent basis. Brad Griswold, taking an alternative view, argued that the proposal could perhaps be cut back to six months, if the Task Force committed itself to finding a long term solution to the homeless problem immediately. Dick Hinkle thought this idea was potentially hazardous because of the availability of other funding (e.g. the HSRC funding discussed by Dick Nichols) being anchored to January 1st, 1995.

At this point, funding became less of an issue as site location took center stage. After all, Pat Libby noted, if no sites were secured, talking about funding was pointless. This is where the issue of converting the Federal Building on Capitol Boulevard into a temporary shelter became a topic of debate.

Martin Lee and other members of the audience thought that the Federal Building was a viable option, and that it would provide a genuine, long-term solution to housing the homeless until affordable housing could be made more available. In their view, the city of Olympia has a federally-mandated responsibility to turn over the building to homeless use since the McKinney Act, established in Congress in 1987, stipulates that vacant government properties be made available to eligible non-profit groups to house the homeless. Also, Lee noted that the General Service Administration had informed him that the HATC was at fault for moving too slowly in renovating the building for public use, and as a result, the HATC had had their lease to the Federal Building rescinded.

Chris Lowell and Dean Hanks, on the other hand, argued that the building would be far too expensive to run and maintain, and that it had be zoned for office space rather than residential use. Chris Lowell, in response to Lee, also defended the HATC by insisting that the federal government had originally approved the HATC's renovation schedule, but "violated" these agreements by rescinding their deed.

This debate was never resolved, and Bob Jacobs suggested that, in any event, it was unrealistic for the city of Olympia to provide yet another homeless facility. He thought that since the Bread & Roses and Salvation Army facilities were already based in Olympia, it made practical sense for Tumwater or Lacey to consider helping out and doing their fair share.

After the Federal Building discussion, ideas of a general nature were shared. Pastor Hochstatter said he would talk with his congregation the following Sunday (Feb. 20th) about the First Baptist Church remaining open as a Specialty Shelter. Dick Nichols complimented the Task Force for all the work it had done on a "complex problem," and voiced his support for Hochstatter's remark concerning having the community become more involved in the solution of this problem. Pat Libby argued that homelessness could not be "solved," and that the Task Force needed to stay focused on "address[ing] and manag[ing] the homeless problem over the next ten months." Ken Schwilk then remarked that this focus should consist of finding a shelter site <u>first</u>; subsequently, grant writing and other funding resources could be explored more thoroughly. Brad Griswold suggested that making another shelter was perhaps not the best answer, and that other innovative options should be explored. As an example, he noted that there were many old hotels on the outskirts of town that could perhaps be convinced to exchange rooming space for homeless workers, and that this option could still, theoretically, be plugged into the Bread & Roses intake and referral scenario. The audience applauded this idea, and Griswold said he would investigate it further for the next (and last) Task Force meeting.

The public comment that followed was eclectic. There was more support for the Federal Building idea, both praise and criticism for the Salvation Army, and criticism for the Task Force. In addition, Mel Foster submitted a number of community-building ideas to the HSCTF for their consideration regarding Phase II of their project (i.e. finding more permanent solutions). This handout was xeroxed and handed out to all the Task Force members. Briefly, Foster's ideas emphasized the need for public education on homelessness, revising outworn social service policies quickly, and stopping the interjurisdictional "turf wars" between Olympia, Lacey, and Tumwater that ultimately made tackling the homeless problem more difficult and costly.

Time out for another editorial

The bottom line after seven weeks of Task Force meetings is that the homeless men are being given a choice between the Salvation Army or the streets. Those familiar with the history of this issue may be getting an odd feeling of deja vu after reading this chronicle. Why? Because the CAC's Specialty Shelter proposal, while appearing timely and original, is just a revamped version of the Associated Ministries "stop-gap" measure proposed back on July 13th of last year at a pivotal Olympia City Council meeting. If you're a regular reader of this publication, you know that a week before this meeting (July 5th), the Department of Community Development (DCD) had refused Associated Ministries' request for a $260,000 shelter grant originally offered to the Salvation Army in December of 1992. The Salvation Army's Advisory Board had assured this refusal by publically withdrawing their support for the Associated Ministries' shelter project in the April 15, 1993 edition of *The Olympian*. The DCD needed, first and foremost, Salvation Army approval for the grant to go through. When they balked, the DCD walked.

So, regardless of what the Task Force would like you to think, we're still back *exactly* where we were seven months ago, with one exception: no more First Baptist Church to assuage the collective guilty conscience of this community. And although there a number of other factors contributing to the HSCTF's (and our community's) failure to find a cost effective and innovative solution to housing our homeless, it's primarily due to the Salvation Army being unable to swallow its pride back in April. Why else would they now make what one homeless advocate slyly called "a very generous non-offer" to expand their shelter services? It's to try and dupe our community into believing that it is the homeless men who are the recalcitrant players in this drama, when history reveals that it has been the Salvation Army who has consistently blocked the creation of another permanent shelter founded on humane and nonjudgemental policies that run counter to their own.

Now, at last, the Salvation Army has bowed to political pressure and relaxed some of its rules. But has this face-saving gesture come to late to be of any real worth? Only time will tell, but from what I've been hearing from the homeless community, the "old wounds" that Ralph Smith described are indeed deep, and I seriously doubt that many men will choose to stay at the Salvation Army come March 1st.

Their boycott will probably make many people angry. They'll call the homeless men "shiftless ingrates," or worse. I won't try to convince you that these men are blameless victims, however, I will suggest that you reflect on the historical facts carefully before you incriminate them by default.

A Visit to Grandma's

Your kitchen smells of corn,
growing dried and frozen outside
with the frost
and sunsets of Iowa,
rushing cold up the nose
to chill a body's insides.
With this fork, I eat
from you china,
first delicately,
then haphazard in diagonals,
stabbing into turkey flesh
to celebrate Thanksgiving
on Grandpa's funeral day.
Your food sits in the pit inside me,
like the boney cliff
in the center of my skull,
to remind me
that my nose
is long and thin and pointy,
like the shadows
in your mind,
rippling into waves
off the tip of your upturned nostrils,
jumping from your pursed lips
to fill our precious table
with snakes, and salamanders, and spiders.
You tell me to eat
silently, diligently,
thankful to The Lord
for food to fill my belly,
because children in China are starving.
Like my father, those children
will burn in hell
on Judgement day.
The BIBLE tells it so,
as you now tell me,
while I wash your white china,
teacups, plates, and saucers,
breaking nothing
but my own integrity.
Chewing on pine needles,
I scratch my voicebox to echoes
and sap
gums my mouth to sleep.
I excuse myself,
my chores complete,
to sit on your porch
alone,
rocking back and forth
with the November winds,
looking for home
in the calm open
of rustling cornfields
in Midamerica.

D. Maia Huang

Nightscape

I lay beside my lover, I love to feel his breath.
We lay sleeping curled together,
I will not think of death.

I was dreaming we were riding a horse uphill
It was steep and rolling terrain.
We rode astride a massive steed of bone, muscle,
and will.
Straining and galloping to reach the summit,
As horses prefer not to walk uphill.

Dream transfers grace,
And speed and strength,
Release from thinking of life in lengths.
Awake before we reach the summit,
The heat and the sweat of the climb in the sheets.
A crashing return to the land of limits,
Like stepping from home and into the streets.
Then the weeping that is silent, the pools in the eyes,
That rolls off the face, to fill up the ears.
The out-pouring of all that fills up our years,
Flowing away in the form of tears.
The agony of the ages alive in the night, a sadness full
of power.
A sadness filled with might.

Then the darkness pulls forward,
Pursuing the light as sleep descends upon us,
As if from some great height.

Lynn Villella

1994 Ethnic Calendar Available

The 1994 version of Multi-Ethnic Mosaic of Thurston County" has been recently published by the Institute for International & Multi-Ethnic Relations and is now available for purchase.

Fully illustrated with photographs, the calendar features local citizens and organizations. Included: Olympia's Japanese sister city, Yashiro; Vietnamese Mutual Assistance Association; Nisqually Indian Tribe; Community Mental Health; Lithuanian Dancers; Immigrants from Mexico and Bangladesh and much more.

The calendar also includes four pages of community resources, the months of the year translated into twelve languages (two Native American) and over one hundred "trivia" questions regarding ethnic and international topics. There is also a dedication to Native American activist, Billy Frank, Jr., recipient of the Institute's annual Citizen Diplomacy Award.

The calendar is available now for $12 and may be purchased by calling the Institute at 705-0615 or stopping by the office at 203 E. 4th, Suite 308.

WIP Schedule

WIP Article submission deadline is
Wednesday, March 16
Also on that day, there will be a meeting at SPEECH (218 Fourth Ave) at 7 pm.
Call 705-2726 for info.

Proofreading Meeting
Tuesday, March 22 at 7pm
at the Olympia Timberland Library

For advertising information call ad representative
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Sustainability in India: Lessons for Olympia?

Tuesday, March 1 7:30pm
Olympia Timberland Library

Sustainable community will be the focus of *Sustainability in India: Lessons for Olympia?*, a slide show and discussion by Jim Merkel, an environmental activist from San Luis Obispo, CA. Mr. Merkel has recently returned from Kerala, India where he was part of an EarthWatch research team studying what many consider to be the most earth efficient culture on the globe.

With a population of 30,000,000, six times that of Washington, living on less than 1/3 of our land mass, the people of Kerala have been able to maintain a high quality of life, a peaceful grassroots democracy, a near zero population growth and a minimal consumption of the earth's resources on an annual per capita income of $387. Among the questions raised during this evening presentation: What have we lost through industrialization? Why is family and community harmony disappearing? What can Olympia learn about maintaining our quality of life while reducing our burden on the earth's ecology and resources?

Merkel, formerly an industrial marketing specialist for a defense contractor, has transformed his own life. He lives on a 200 square foot plot of ground, grows his own vegetables, buys no packaged food and does not use an automobile. His talk will combine environmental spirituality with a grounding in the hard sciences and the business world.

This event is part of the Nights of the Roundtable series and is being co-sponsored by the Sustainable Community Roundtable and the Eastside Voluntary Simplicity Study Circle. For information call Gita Moulton at 352-9351.

Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace

March 8 7pm

Olympia Timberland Library

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